

THE JOURNAL

• Friday, December 31 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

Sports A look at 1999's thrills of victory and agonies of defeat [C1]

Arts Year's best— and worst— on stage and screen [C3]

Fortunate sons and daughters

A look at some of the influential local figures in past 100 years

By Martin Snapp

So many people helped make Albany and El Cerrito what it was during the 20th century. Here is an arbitrary list of 10 of the century's more interesting figures:

Frank Roberts

Not too many people remember nowadays, but Albany wasn't always called Albany. It used to be known as Ocean View. But in a special election in 1909, it was changed to Albany, in honor of the birthplace of its most popular citizen, Frank Roberts. The vote was a whopping 38 for and only six against, which gives you an idea of the booming metropolis Albany was in those days.

There was never a nicer guy than Frank Roberts. People just couldn't help liking him. He was charming, generous and genuinely concerned for others. So it was no surprise when he was unanimously chosen as Albany's first mayor—or, as it was called, then, President of the Albany Board of Trustees—the following year.

Many of the things Albany residents take for granted are due to Roberts, including the paving of San Pablo Avenue and Main Street, which is now Solano Avenue. He encouraged development and cut waste in public spending.

Above all, he fiercely resisted the attempt by Alameda County to collect taxes for Albany, arguing—not unreasonably—that to surrender the purse strings was to surrender local control. He felt that Albany was a distinct community that should run its own affairs, an attitude that survives to the present day.

Unfortunately, he was also an alcoholic, at a time when alcoholism was poorly understood. He constantly irked his colleagues by turning up late and hung over at City Council meetings—that is, when he bothered to show up at all.

Within months of his taking office in 1910, his colleagues threw him off the council. But he was so popular with the public, he swept back into office two years later with his own slate, defeating all those who had kicked him out.

His bad habits soon resurfaced, and in 1914 he barely survived a recall election.



EBET ROBERTS

JOHN FOGERTY, wasn't born on the bayou, but his talents catapulted a rock band of El Cerrito High School students known as the Golliwogs into lasting international fame as Creedence Clearwater Revival. Fogerty, shown on tour here is 1997, is still a top solo act.

tion. But it was only a temporary reprieve; the following year his new allies kicked him off the council for good.

Thereafter he drifted into obscurity. But his legacy of an independent Albany endures.

William Rust

El Cerrito wasn't always called El Cerrito, either. It used to be called Rust, after the man who founded the town, William F. Rust.

Rust came to the area in 1877 from his native Germany. A blacksmith by training, he was looking for a location to set up business about halfway between Oakland and San Pablo. He settled for a lot on San Pablo Avenue, where Pastime Hardware is located today. There, he began making farm implements, shoeing horses, and mending plows and wagon wheels for local farmers.

The blacksmith shop eventually became a hardware store. Rust was an honest, affable man—people called him Uncle Billy—and his store soon became the center of local activity.

So it was a logical decision when the Postal Department decided to establish the first post office in the area in a corner of Rust's store. It opened on March 1, 1909, and Rust was named the first postmaster.

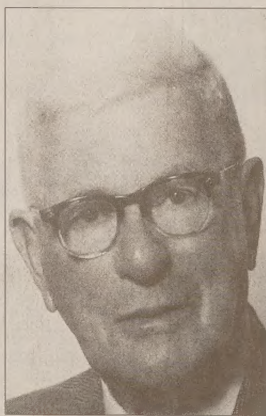
By this time, people were starting to call the town Rust. The name stuck until 1917, when the town was formally incorporated. Some public relations-minded boosters decided that Rust sounded, well, a little rusty. So they changed it to El Cerrito—Spanish for little hill—which, ironically, was one of the names first considered for neighboring Albany.

Rust died in 1940, never reconciling himself to the name change. In 1959, his son Herman said, "Pa was a little hurt by the change."

Charles MacGregor

Nobody knows for sure how Charles "One Nail" MacGregor got his nickname.

His friends said it was because he always put in one more nail than anyone else. But it's a fitting moniker for the man who literally built Albany. More than 1,500 families in Albany are now living in MacGregor homes.



CHARLES MACGREGOR

His business card read "C.M. MacGregor—Homes," not "houses," and it was a distinction MacGregor took very seriously. To him, a building was just an empty shell until it was given life by the family that lived in it. So although he was a mass builder, he made sure that no two MacGregor homes were exactly the same.

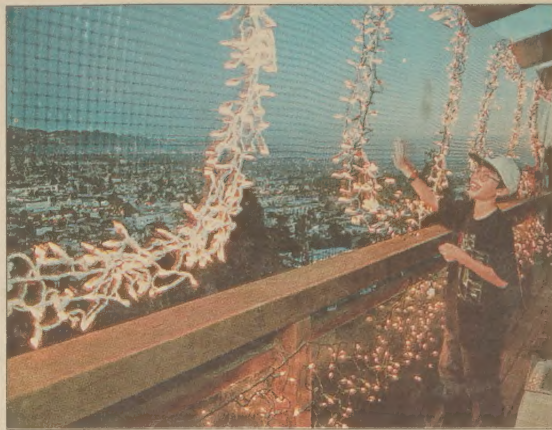
MacGregor came to Albany in 1936. As his daughter Charlotte recalled years later, he stood on the corner of Grove Street (now The Alameda) and Solano Avenue, looked out at the great expanse of land, and said, "I think someday this will be a good town—a family town. I'm going to start building out here."

He was able to buy up a large number of lots dirt cheap. A recent rainstorm had caused heavy flooding in the area around Golden Gate Fields, bankrupting many who had bought the lots on speculation and were only too glad to sell at any price.

Then he set about building homes, employing a team of workers who were like a second family to him.

"My father hated Christmas," Charlotte recalled, "because the weather was bad and the men had to be laid off. He finally worked

See FORTUNATE, Page A3



JOANNA JHANDA

YEAR 2000 greetings were designed by Albany Middle School student Tai-Tien Chan, 12, with the help of his father, Bock Chan.

Innovative young man sets up hillside salute to 2000

By J.R. Deaton

ALBANY—Twelve-year-old Tai-Tien Chan wanted to do something special for this special new year and his big lighted 2000 on the east side of Albany Hill is the result.

"Normally we just put up a dragon," he said. This year, however, the Albany Middle School student talked his parents into letting him put up the lighted 2000 to celebrate the new millennium.

Made up of hundreds of small white and colored bulbs fastened to a wire screen on the Chan's Hillside Avenue

home, Tai-Tien's 2000 can be seen each night on the east side of Albany Hill.

He said he plans to flash the lights at midnight Dec. 31 to celebrate the new year.

Tai-Tien said his family has an atomic-clock receiver and will know exactly when the new year begins.

"To the millisecond," he said.

So if you lose track of time during your millennium celebration, you can always keep an eye on the Albany Hill 2000 and watch for it flashing to welcome in the new year.

LOOKING BACK AT 1999

Albany grappled with many major issues in 1999

New middle school opened, groundbreaking held for new high school

BY JOURNAL STAFF

ALBANY—The past year saw advances toward many of the major projects taking place around town, and in major obstacles still to be resolved.

Many of the issues revolved around the Albany Unified School District, which welcomed new Superintendent Gary Mills, who replaced retired schools chief J. Dale Hudson.

The school district benefitted from strong support for the Measure A parcel tax, which passed handily in June. This

month, however, many of the measure's supporters were dismayed to learn that rather than adding new programs, the bulk of the \$1 million in annual funding is going toward existing offerings that were threatened by budget shortfalls.

The year saw the completion of the new Albany Middle School at the former Hill Lumber property and the creation of a new elementary school (named Ocean View, which was the original name of the

See ALBANY, Page A8

Plaza agreement highlights busy year in El Cerrito

Some familiar EC businesses close; facilities rehab measure okayed for ballot

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—There was plenty of local news in 1999. Plaza reconstruction was finally approved and things started to happen there. After more than a year of public meetings and workshops, El Cerrito adopted its new General Plan.

The Committee of the Whole continued its journeyman's work of looking at civic finances and infrastructure needs.

Several of the committee's recommendations, notably that the Redevelopment Agency go into hiatus, were approved by the City Council. Speaking of the City Council, after a contentious fall campaign, two new council members

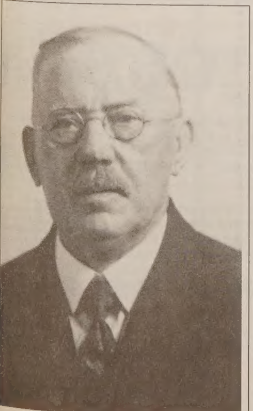
were sworn in last month. The council also voted to put a \$5.3 million swim center and park clubhouses funding measure on the March 2000 ballot. Here is a recap of the major El Cerrito stories of the past year:

January

Mechanics Bank announced the closure of its small but popular branch in the Plaza. The larger office at Fairmount and San Pablo avenues continues operations. Plaza owners discussed their "entertainment-retail" plan to revamp the aging shopping center.

See EL CERRITO, Page A7

The Journal staff wishes our readers a Happy New Year



COURTESY EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WILLIAM RUST

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IN BRIEF

Albany Christmas tree recycling

Waste Management of Alameda County offers free curbside pickup of Christmas trees. Residents of houses should place the tree in the yard trimmings cart and the tree must be cut or broken to fit entirely inside the cart. Apartment residents can place the tree, which must be cut to less than five feet, at the curb. Details: 613-8710.

Community art column

A team of El Cerrito artists are hard at work creating a community art column to represent our city's past, present and future. The column will be part of a countywide Arts Millennium celebration at the Concord Pavilion in July 2000, before taking up permanent residence in El Cerrito.

El Cerrito's column will be done in metals and paint, and will use recycled materials, including a key from your El Cerrito home or business.

The keys we collect from residents and business owners will be incorporated into the metal sculpture, and the dollars we collect will help pay for the materials for the project. So here's your chance to recycle an old key, help celebrate the spirit of El Cerrito, and support local public art!

Send your key and \$1 to: Sustainable El Cerrito, 1711 Arlington, El Cerrito, CA 94530 (Include your name and address, and organizers will let you know when and where the community art column will be on display).

Or drop it off. Drop-off boxes for keys and dollars will be located at businesses and public places throughout the town.

Ferry holiday schedule

The Red and White Richmond Ferry has announced that it will run an abbreviated weekend schedule on New Year's Eve. The last Richmond-San Francisco ferry run will leave the Richmond Ferry Terminal at 4:40 p.m. on both days, and arrive at Fisherman's Wharf at 5:25 p.m.

There will be no service on New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan. 1. Details: 464-1030.

BART cautions public on ticket lines Dec. 31

BART officials are urging people who plan to use trains on New Year's Eve to buy tickets before the holiday. Each BART passenger must have a ticket, and vending machines will

likely have long lines on New Year's Eve.

In addition to regular tickets, BART is offering a \$5 Millennium Memento Flash Pass good for unlimited rides on BART from 6 p.m., Dec. 31 until 6 p.m., Jan. 1.

Trains will operate from 4 a.m. Dec. 31, until midnight Jan. 1.

Tickets may be purchased at BART stations or at off-site outlets, including certain supermarkets and pharmacies. For more information, call toll free from anywhere in the Bay Area, 817-1717. No area code is needed.

Holiday bus service

AC Transit will operate regular schedules New Year's Eve, but cease overnight Bay Bridge service just before midnight, and then operate Sunday schedules for New Year's Day.

AC Transit will operate regular weekday bus schedules all day on Friday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, until shortly before midnight, when all transbay bus service will cease operating. Then on Saturday, Jan. 1, buses will be operated on Sunday/Holiday Schedules.

All AC Transit bus lines will be in regular operation on New Year's Eve.

That includes overnight "owl" bus service on local lines 40, 51, 58, 73, 82, 301, 315, 345, 353, 354 and 362, which will operate on regular schedules during the early morning hours of New Year's Day. Line A will operate a special route described below.

However, shortly before midnight New Year's Eve, AC Transit will cease bus service on the Bay Bridge, which is expected to be grid-locked by traffic. The final eastbound transbay bus trips on New Year's Eve will depart from San Francisco's Transbay Transit Terminal at 11:14 p.m. on Line A service; 11:15 p.m. on Line O; 11:30 p.m. on Line F; and 11:45 p.m. on Line N.

Just before midnight Friday, San Francisco-bound buses on Lines F, N and O will divert to BART/West Oakland (for transfer connections to/from all-night rail service) and then go out of service. Line A will operate owl service on New Year's Day morning until about 6 a.m., but only between the Oakland Airport and BART/West Oakland via Amtrak, Jack London Square and Oakland City Center.

All day Saturday, AC Transit will operate bus service on Sunday/Holiday schedules. Service to and from downtown San Francisco will consist of five routes: Line A, S.F.-Oakland Airport; Line C, Piedmont-S.F.; Line F, Berkeley-S.F.; Line N/NL, San Leandro-Oakland-S.F.; and Line -

Alameda-downtown Oakland-S.F.

For AC Transit schedule information, call 817-1717, then speedial 1, 1, 1, 1 before the holiday. Clerks are on duty 7 a.m.-8 p.m., weekdays, but not on New Year's Day; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m., except holiday weekends to help. During nighttime hours, for summary information about AC Transit's entire bus service network is available in an automated voicemail telephone format.

AC Transit route map and bus schedule information also may be obtained 24-hours a day online at:

On the holiday weekend, AC Transit's ticket offices at 1600 Franklin St. in Oakland and in San Francisco's Transbay Transit Terminal at First and Mission streets will be closed, as will be the bus system's administrative offices in downtown Oakland.

County legal service dispenses free advice

The Contra Costa Legal Services Foundation continues to provide free legal services to low-income Contra Costa County residents.

The foundation's main office is at 1017 Macdonald Ave. It is open from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The office is open from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Thursday, and is open by appointment only in the afternoon. Friday hours are the same as Monday through Wednesday, except every other Friday, when it is open from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The foundation provides legal services in the areas of housing, government benefits and health. Additional services are provided to HIV-positive clients.

For information and appointments, call 510-233-9954.

Volunteers needed to teach adults to read

Richmond Public Library's Literacy for Every Adult Project is holding a tutor orientation from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 20.

LEAP is a volunteer program aimed at improving reading and writing skills for those older than 16. Orientation and training in at least one subject area are mandatory for all volunteer tutors. Orientation consists of a program overview and a discussion of tutor responsibilities.

Training sessions on aspects of teaching phonics, comprehension and preparation for general equivalency diploma testing are Jan. 24-27. Reservations are requested.

Details: Rodney Ferguson, 510-307-8084.

Thief surprised during home break

By K. Osborn

ALBANY—At about 1 a.m. on Dec. 20 officers stopped a red Mercury Monarch near the Buchanan interchange. The driver, a 38-year-old San Francisco man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Santa Clara in the amount of \$1,000. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

On the morning of Dec. 20, officers contacted a 57-year-old transient man at the Shell Station on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue. He was found to have two outstanding "No Bail" warrants and two outstanding warrants totaling \$4,000, all from Berkeley. He was arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley jail.

On the morning of Dec. 20, a resident on the 800 block of Ramona Avenue reported that while they were out of the country, and friends were watching their house, thieves broke in and stole a VCR and various other items.

At about 9:15 a.m. on Dec. 20,

residents on the 1100 block of Marin Avenue reported they had just surprised a thief who had broken into their garage and was in the process of breaking into their car. The victim described the thief as a white male, about 6-foot-1, with dark hair, wearing a baseball cap with BUM lettering, a green jacket and black pants. The thief fled from the garage on a bike and was gone when officers arrived.

On the morning of Dec. 20, a resident on the 500 block of Pierce Street reported that during the night thieves stole his maroon 1984 Buick Century.

On the evening of Dec. 22, officers investigated a man in a rust-colored 1965 Chevrolet that was parked in the Golden Gate Fields parking lot. The 23-year-old man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Berkeley in the amount of \$2,000. He was arrested, cited and released.

On the afternoon of Dec. 23, a resident on the 800 block of Masonic Avenue reported that sometime between Dec. 20 and the date of the re-

POLICE REPORT

port, thieves broke into the car and stole various items.

On the evening of Dec. 22, officers contacted Jackman Street who have outstanding warrants. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

During the week of Dec. 20, officers towed two cars containing six false alarms, arrested a deceased animal, arrested a person locked out of the house, responded to six reports of domestic violence.

In the domestic violence cases, 100 calls were made, 100 citations and 49 warrants.

Albany firefighters responded to three fire and medical emergencies.

Closing 1999 with resolve and trepidation

Out with the old, in with the new. I wish it were that simple. New Year's Eve has always been a night high on sentiment but low on any effectual change.

No matter how many times I make them, I'm always disappointed because I can't seem to keep my New Year's resolutions for longer than a month.

Every year it's the same old routine. As Dick Clark begins his infamous countdown to the new year, I draft a list of things I want to change in my life. Keep my room clean, wash the dishes without complaining, do my homework without fail. It's pretty boring, if you ask me.

But this year, Jan. 1 holds a little more meaning for me than in years past. Rest assured, it's not because I'm obsessed with Y2K or the advent of a new millennium. On the contrary, the first day of the year 2000 is the postmark deadline for the last of my college applications. For me, that's more than enough reason to celebrate. Break out the sparkling cider, I will be free at last.

For the past month or so, a pile of applications have sat relatively untouched in the corner of my room. Harvard, Yale, Princeton—I've got them all. Growing up, I always thought that I would apply to all of those prestigious universities. What was I thinking?

Not only am I convinced that I could never stand a chance in an applicant pool filled with geniuses and child prodigies, I feel remarkably unmotivated to even want to wade in that pool.

Come to think of it, I've felt ab-

normally indifferent about the entire college process.

I dawdled on my UC applications. I struggled with my personal statement because I felt that I had nothing significant to state. It's ironic in a way.

I choked on what is considered to be one of the most important essays I'll ever have to write. What gets me most is that I still don't know why checking boxes or answering vague essay questions was so hard for me.

In commiserating with other high school seniors, I know that I'm not the only person who gets frustrated with the College Board, the monopolistic company that runs the SAT and Advanced Placement Exams. But as I stare at the sheaths of application paperwork, I imagine a college admissions officer spending all of five minutes glancing over my application and discarding it just like that.

At the same time, I wonder how that could be. My day planner has been packed to the brim with appointments and activities for the past four years. But even I know the answer to my lingering fears of being underqualified. CBS "Class of 2000" TV specials have shown me that there are thousands of 17-year-olds who have accomplished far more than I could ever dream possible.

Even so, I know that my battle to excel won't necessarily end when the acceptance or rejection letters start

Objects in mirror are more than they seem

By Amy Chen

tricking in come April.

Once I start college, I'll be back to the bottom of the class in both in seniority and in knowledge. I've told me time and time again it's not so much when you graduate, but how well you graduate. I think that's a wise motto. The most, it's an incessant stay afloat, and I don't know how strong enough swimmer.

In the meantime, I'm so that by the stroke of midnight have 60 cent post office stamps mailing as proof that I've got applications in the rack just in case computers go down at 12:01 a.m. and my application in the shuffle. I think I'll break tradition this year to keep my resolutions as the very last.

Forget the Big Apple of New Year's Eve. Now THAT's a sight watching.

Amy Chen is editor of The Albany High School

Note to readers: The El Cerrito Police Report will return next week

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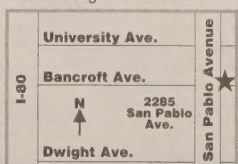
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FROM PAGE A1

...so that he saved all the inside work in the rainy season, so the men could work all year round."

He also helped support many local families whose breadwinners were out of work; but he did it with a lot of modesty: He'd buy them groceries and groceries, but he never delivered them himself. Instead, he had the grocer deliver them, so the recipients wouldn't be embarrassed in front of their neighbors.

If you seek his monument, look for it in the homes he built and the hearts of the people whose lives he made better.

Elmer Freethy

More than any other person, Elmer Freethy deserved the title "Mr. Cerrito."

He built this city—literally—starting with El Cerrito High School, which his construction company built in 1939. He also built many of the sewers, water tanks and sewage treatment plants from Crescent City to Santa Barbara, as well as the Richmond City Hall and the Hall of Justice.

He's the man who put street lights on San Pablo Avenue. And, as head of the city's Park and Rec Commission, he spearheaded the bond measures creating the El Cerrito Community Center and the city's 14 parks.

He served on the El Cerrito Civil Service Commission, chaired the city's 50th anniversary celebration in 1967, and served on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce (winning its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award).

And his generosity was legendary. It's virtually impossible to list all the worthy programs and services for children, teenagers and senior citizens that benefited from his largesse, including the annual Easter egg hunt and the Dave Hunter Memorial Youth Scholarship.

Not bad for a guy whose first job was sweeping the floor at the Mechanics Bank! He caught the eye of the bank's president, Edward Gatto, who recognized in the hardworking young man qualities that reminded him of himself. Gatto became his mentor, and their relationship became more like father-son than employer-employee.

In later years, Freethy remembered how kind Downer had been to him, and he went out of his way to mentor young people in his turn.)

Freethy attended Cal and got a degree in architecture, then went to work as a laborer in the construction of Stanford Stadium. Then he became a carpenter, then a carpenter's helper. Before long, he was able to make out on his own.

He got his big break in 1939, when he landed the contract to build El Cerrito High. His mother mortgaged her house so he could get enough cash to buy the bond that was required to put up the bid. From then on, it was a long, unbroken string of success after success.

But perhaps his greatest success was the high regard with which his friends, associates and even business rivals held him. "The anchor of the community," said one. "Trustworthy and honest," said another. "The kind of man you'd be proud to have as a friend," said a third. And everyone agreed he was the hardest working man they ever met.

That last judgment he was one hundred percent right. He was never full of himself. "Today's young people don't work as hard as I did," he said. "And you know what? I don't blame them for it!"

Walt Gatto

Of all the nightclubs that lit up San Pablo Avenue during the 1940s, '50s and '60s, none was as famous—as much fun—as the "It" Club. From the day it was founded by new friends Walt and Eda Gallo in 1939 to the day they sold it in 1977, the club remained open seven days a week, and, more importantly, nights) a place where, and closed voluntarily only once—the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

It closed involuntarily several times, though, when it was periodically raided by the cops, who were searching for slot machines.

But they rarely found any, because Walt had an insider in the police department who usually tipped him off before a raid. (It also didn't help that several El Cerrito mayors and city councilmen, as well as several local judges, were among the club's most loyal customers.)

But the "It" Club featured more than slots. Its stage headlined some of the most famous entertainers of the day, including Redd Foxx, Nat King Cole, Helen Morgan, Chuck Berry, Dick Van Dyke, and a local high school band named the Gollies (who later changed their name to Creedence Clearwater Revival.). Walt turned down others who were equally famous.

Johnny Cash begged me for a job, he recalled in 1982. "But who wanted a guitar player in those days?"

Even more popular were the strippers, including Gypsy Rose Lee, Sally Rand, and Scarlet O'Hara, who ac-

cording to one writer, was "gone with the wind" after an unfavorable review.

But there was a world of difference between the "It" Club, which was a local mom & pop business, and other, rougher establishments, which were owned by outsiders with ties to organized crime.

At the El Cerrito dog racetrack, the owner, "Black Jack" Jerome, used to fix races and send strongmen to beat up welchers. "Big Bill" Pechart, the generally acknowledged gambling boss in the area, ran his myriad illegal operations from an armed fortress.

By contrast, Walt and Eda ran what can only be called a family-friendly burlesque house. The strippers were nothing like the full frontal nudity and live sex shows that are common today. They were risqué, but never lewd. And the slots were always scrupulously honest.

Walt and Eda also threw themselves into the local community, giving generously to every worthwhile cause that came their way, especially if it had to do with young people.

Walt's relations with the police were so amiable, in fact, in 1946 the Deputy District Attorney challenged the "It" Club to a softball game, to benefit the March of Dimes. Walt accepted, and picked up the tab for all the expenses, including the uniforms.

The game quickly became an annual El Cerrito tradition, with both sides importing ringers to beef up their squads. Over the years, the game featured major league stars like Billy Martin, Jackie Jensen, Ferris Fain, Bill Rigney, Cookie Lavagetto, and Augie Galan.

Walt sold the "It" Club in 1977 to devote more time to his family, his community and his church. But old-timers still recall with affection the familiar greeting they'd get whenever they phoned the club: "This is It!"

Kathie Zahn

Kathie Zahn was a tireless champion of the people's rights. Kathie Zahn was a royal pain in the neck.

Which view you held depended on whether you agreed or disagreed with her. But for more than 40 years, this human dynamo—the "militant housewife," as the newspapers called her—badgered, bedeviled, harassed and cajoled the Albany City Council over a number of issues she felt passionately about.

She arrived in Albany from her native Germany in 1929 and immediately kicked off her first crusade: eliminating trichinosis from food. When the council turned down her request to pay her expenses to a conference on trichinosis, that set the pattern of her relationship with them.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts to run for city council, she finally won in 1950, becoming the first female council member in Albany's history.

At her first meeting as councilwoman she demanded to be appointed as the council's representative on the school board (a practice since abandoned) and called for the cancellation of a special election—an election she herself had caused to happen via a petition campaign six months before.

She also embarked on a feud with the city's engineering department that lasted for years. Before she was done, she had forced the resignations of five successive Chief Engineers.

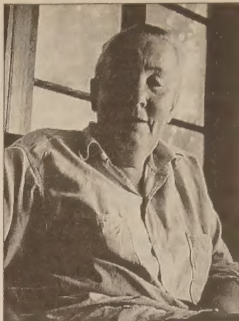
Finally, in April 1960, she achieved her ambition to be Mayor of Albany. Unfortunately, the mayor went to her head, and by the following January her high-handed behavior—including a disastrous public meeting at Marin School in which she went out of her way to insult her constituents—caused her to be recalled in a special election by a 2-to-1 majority. It was the end of her political career, although she remained a public gadfly until her death in 1974.

Pushy? Yes. Abrasive? You bet. Insignificant? No way. Kathie Zahn accumulated one of the most impressive lists of accomplishments of any public servant, including putting up railroad signals at the corner of Solano and Key Route, establishing emergency care at Herrick Hospital, extending of the 43A bus to San Pablo Ave., payment of telephone bills at Mechanics Bank, and the establishment of the El Cerrito Senior Center on Masonic.

She also fought a gallant, but ultimately unsuccessful, battle to prevent General Motors, Standard Oil and Firestone from scrapping the lovely old Key System trolley cars and replacing them with busses. Sometimes it takes a troublemaker to be a trailblazer.

John Fogerty

When music historians of the next century write the history of this one,



CATHERINE WEBB

they're going to say that the Great American Rock'n'Roll band wasn't the Grateful Dead, the Jefferson Airplane, or even The Band.

No, the verdict is already in, and the winner is Creedence Clearwater Revival. Think of all those classics: "Proud Mary," "Born On The Bayou," "Bad Moon Rising," "Fortunate Son," "Lodi," "Who'll Stop The Rain," "Down On The Corner"—the list goes on and on.

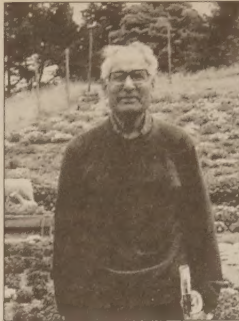
And every one of them was written by John Fogerty. He also sang the vocals and played lead guitar. His post-Creedence years have also been fruitful (despite an enforced hiatus while he wrangled with his old record company), producing the greatest baseball song of all time, "Centerfield."

The band was formed in 1959, when John was a junior at Portola High. At first they were a trio—John on guitar, Stu Cook on piano and Doug Clifford on drums—and they were called the Blue Velvets.

A few months later John's older brother Tom joined the group, and they changed the name to Tommy Fogerty and the Blue Velvets. They knocked around playing local gigs until 1963, when John got a job as a shipping clerk at Fantasy Records.

That's when they got their first break. An executive at Fantasy became interested in them, but he insisted that they change their name to The Goliwogs to sound more "British." The band accepted the new name, but they always hated it—as well as the blond wigs they were required to wear.

Their next big break didn't happen until 1967, when John took over



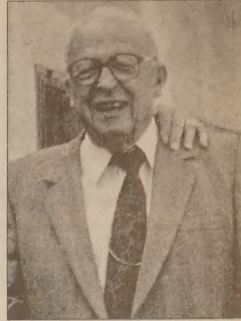
SUNDAR SHADI

most of the songwriting. He dumped the name, as well as the pseudo-Beatles repertoire they had been forced to perform. The first record by the newly-named Creedence Clearwater Revival was a cover of the old Dale Hawkins rock standard, "Susie Q."

No one who was around in 1967 will ever forget the stunning impact of the first time they heard the Creedence version of "Susie Q" on the radio. John's growling vocal, his searing guitar solo, and the band's tight sound announced unmistakably that a major new force was on the music scene.

After that, the hits just kept on coming. But in 1971, Tom Fogerty left the group, and the band officially disbanded a year later. John embarked on a series of legal, contractual and artistic wrangles with Fantasy Records, including his classic song about the company's president, Saul Zaentz, titled "Zaentz Can't Daentz."

But he still keeps on chooglin'. And he always maintains the same exacting standards for himself whenever he plays.



ELMER FREETHY

"I feel very strongly," he once said, "that if someone's been waiting 30 years to see John Fogerty sing 'Born On The Bayou,' then it had better sound like what he thinks 'Born On The Bayou' ought to sound like."

William Woolworth

It's hard to believe, but there once was a time when the Albany public schools were considered to be the worst in the East Bay. There was serious talk of merging with the Berkeley school district so Albany children could finally get a decent education. In 1929, a ballot measure to merge with Berkeley barely lost by only 225 votes.

How times have changed! Today, parents all over the East Bay are scrambling to get phony Albany addresses so they can send their kids to Albany schools. And the person who, more than anyone else, exemplifies that change is Bill Woolworth, the longtime teacher and principal

See FORTUNATE, Page A5

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Opinion

Auld Lang Syne — and good riddance!

On the night of April 14, 1912, the luxury liner SS Titanic was sailing on her maiden voyage in the North Atlantic when she struck an iceberg. According to legend, moments before the collision a passenger rang for room service. Then he felt the crash. He rushed to the door of his stateroom and flung it open — only to find his doorway blocked by a huge boulder of ice that had been tossed on deck by the impact.

That's when he uttered the immortal line: "I asked for ice, but this is ridiculous."

And that's the way I feel about the 20th century.

A hundred years ago, the atmosphere was eerily similar to the one we have today. The world was being transformed by new technologies — the telephone, radio, movies, airplanes, and the assembly line — which were rapidly turning agricultural economies into industrial ones.

Everyone assumed technology would solve all the ills of the world. Millions of new jobs that never existed before were being created. (Never mind that millions of old jobs were being destroyed. Or that the people who lost their jobs were not necessarily the same people who found new ones.)

People also believed that the new technologies made war obsolete. The nations' economies were now so interdependent, the experts said, it would be impossible for them to go to war with each other.

And the millionaires who were riding the wave of this technological boom — men like Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Louis B. Mayer and David Sarnoff — were deferred to by politicians, the public and the press alike, as if they were sages who were somehow privy to a wisdom that had eluded the rest of us.

After all, these men were creating jobs, weren't they? Any proposal to tie their hands with government regulations, a unionized work force, or environmental considerations, was considered downright unpatriotic.

Am I the only one who's feeling a creepy sense of déjà vu? Substitute "information age" for "Industrial Revolution," and Bill Gates for Henry Ford, and you could be talking about 1999, not 1899.

Well, we all know how it turned out last time. Instead of preventing World War I, the new technologies made it inevitable. Once general mobilization had been declared, the inexorable railroad timetables made it impossible for either side to turn back. Then technology made it possible to kill people by the millions, instead of the thousands. Ain't that progress?

And far from being sages, the captains of industry turned out to be all too fallible when it came to predicting, much less preventing, the Great Depression of the 1930s, which was the cause of the even more devastating World War II and the long, twilight Cold War that followed.

And I fear we're rushing headlessly into the same trap, all over again. Once again, we are abdicating control over our future to techno-plutocrats who care less about the public good than the quarterly balance sheet.

But I'll worry about the future tomorrow. Today, on the last day of the 20th Century, let's take one last look backward. But instead of choosing the best of the century, as everyone else is doing, here are my nominees for the worst.

Worst President: Calvin Coolidge. "Nothing was what we wanted done," said Will Rogers, "and by God, he done it!" When Coolidge died, Dorothy Parker spoke for many by asking, "How can they tell?"

Worst Vice President: Spiro Agnew, because of what we'll call the Richard Nixon Rule: anybody who gets indicted for a felony automatically wins. Agnew also has the distinction of being the most uptight veep in history. Once, when a reporter asked him why his suits are always so perfectly pressed, Agnew explained, "I never cross my legs and I never lean back in my chair."

Worst First Lady: Florence Harding, aka "The Duchess" (Warren's name for her). When some of Harding's employees showed up at the victory party on election night to congratulate him, The Duchess

announced, "You men needn't look for your Christmas bonus this year. This little show cost us thirteen thousand dollars." No wonder Warren left the White House every evening for an all-night poker session with "the boys" at the Hay-Sheraton Hotel.

At least, that's what he told The Duchess. What she didn't know was that there was an underground tunnel between the Hay-Sheraton and a boarding house across the street, where Harding stashed one of his mistresses, Nan Britton.

On the other hand, maybe she did know. When Harding suddenly dropped dead under mysterious circumstances in 1923, The Duchess was the only other person in the room; and historians have been pointing an accusing finger at her ever since.

Worst Supreme Court justice: James McReynolds, who served from 1914 to 1941. Say this for Justice McReynolds: He was an equal-opportunity hater. He hated Jews, blacks, Democrats, women — even his fellow justices.

A vicious anti-Semite, McReynolds would leave the room whenever either of the two Jewish justices, Louis Brandeis or Benjamin Cardozo, spoke in conference. He also refused to speak to Justice John Clarke, whom he considered unfit for the job. And on one occasion, Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone commented to McReynolds that a particular lawyer's brief was "the dumbest argument" he had ever heard.

McReynolds replied, "The only duller thing I can think of is to hear you read one of your opinions."

He was also a notorious harasser of female lawyers. As the official history of the Supreme Court discreetly puts it, "When the first woman to be employed as a clerk of the court was installed, she found it best to temporarily absent herself when the tap of McReynolds' cane was heard approaching."

Justice McReynolds died in 1946. For some reason, none of the other justices attended the funeral.

Worst Senator: Kenneth Wherry, who represented Nebraska in the 1940s and early '50s. Before entering politics, Wherry was an undertaker — hence his first nickname, "The Merry Mortician."

That was quickly changed to "The Sam Goldwyn of Capitol Hill" when his talent for mangling the language became known. Senators would come running whenever the word was out that Wherry was speaking, for fear of missing such gems as "President Truman is sugarcroaking his red ink," "The issue is clear and indistinct to me," and "If you don't stop shearing the wool off the sheep that lays the golden egg, you'll pump it dry."

To hear Wherry tell it, Vietnam was in "Indigo China," and the Chinese Communist leader was "Mousy Tongue." (As opposed to his counterpart on Taiwan, "Shanghai Jack.")

And one time, instructing a group of visiting high schoolers about the American system of government, he said, "There are four departments. There's the executive, and the legislative, and the judiciary and," (long pause for thought) "... and the Bill of Rights!"

Worst Congressman: Marion Zionscheck — known to friend and foe alike as Brother Z — the representative from Seattle from 1932 to 1936. Brother Z was the biggest lush in the history of the capital, which is really saying something. He'd drink anything, but his favorite was absinthe.

Brother Z's idea of fun was to drive his big white Cadillac around Washington, filled with his girlfriends, drinking, singing and shouting lewd remarks to pedestrians. On New Year's Day in 1936, he tied up a telephone operator and commandeered the switchboard himself, rousing dozens of sleeping residents with his boozy New Year's greetings.

You wouldn't want to rent to this guy, either. One day his landlady returned home to find he had smashed all her possessions, caused structural damage to the house, and assaulted the policeman who came to investigate. That was nothing compared to what happened when he got back that night. He threw her out so forcefully, she was hospitalized with multiple bruises and suspected fractures.

When she got out of the hospital



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

she returned home again. This time, Brother Z grabbed her legs, his wife grabbed her arms, and together they dumped the poor woman in the street.

Brother Z finally came a cropper after another incident, when he delivered empty beer bottles to the White House after driving up on the sidewalk on the wrong side of the road. He was taken to the hospital for observation, but his wife transferred him to a private sanitarium to evade arrest for the assault on his landlady. But in the dead of night, he escaped and took refuge in his Capitol Hill office.

It was a standoff for days, with policemen laying siege to the Capitol, until the house sergeant-at-arms intervened and spirited Brother Z out of Washington and back to Seattle — where, to everyone's relief, he promptly killed himself by leaping out of his fifth-floor office window.

Dirtiest Trick: Sen. George Smathers of Florida, who unseated the popular incumbent, Sen. Claude Pepper, in 1950 by charging that Pepper was a "practicing Homo sapien" and "known extrovert" who had a sister who was a "thespian." Worse yet, said Smathers, there was also evidence that Pepper had "matriculated" while he was in college. And the worst sin of all: Pepper "practiced celibacy" before marriage!

Most Crooked Politician: Edwin Edwards, the four-time governor of Louisiana, who retired undefeated in 1994. In a state famous for its charming rogues, Edwards was the biggest rogue of them all.

His salary never paid more than \$73,000 per year, yet he retired as a multi-millionaire. He was investigated by 22 grand juries. He was indicted on federal racketeering charges. But he was never found guilty of anything.

And was Edwards embarrassed by these scandals? Not for a second. His only comment was "The only way I'll ever be defeated is if I'm found in bed with a live boy or a dead girl."

Edwards' last hurrah was in 1990, when he came out of retirement to run against Ku Klux Klan member David Duke. His winning slogan: "Vote for the crook. It's important."

Worst Womanizer in Washington: You thought I was going to choose Bill Clinton, didn't you? Or maybe Jack Kennedy. These guys were pikers compared to Nicholas Longworth, the speaker of the house from 1925 to 1931. Longworth was married to Teddy Roosevelt's only daughter, Alice, but that didn't stop him from hitting (usually successfully) on every woman who crossed his path.

Once, while Longworth was sitting in the House Library, reading a newspaper, another congressman walked by and playfully patted Longworth's head, which was as bald as a billiard ball.

"This feels as smooth as my wife's behind," said the congressman. Longworth lifted his own hand and ran it across his head, thoughtfully. "So it does," he said, "so it does."

Dumbest Dare: "Follow me around," presidential candidate Gary Hart dared newspaper reporters in 1988. "I'm serious. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'd be very bored."

So they did. They stalked out Hart's Washington, D.C., town house, and what they saw was anything but boring: Hart entering the house accompanied by a woman not his wife — model Donna Rice. The happy couple didn't re-emerge until 24 hours later.

Within a week, Hart was out of the race. Two years after that, he declined to run for re-election to this Senate and was out of politics for good. He is now a lawyer in private practice in Denver. Rice went on to film a commercial for No Excuses jeans. She is now an anti-pornography crusader in Virginia.

Worst Doctor: Lord Dawson, official physician to Britain's King George V. As the king was dying in 1936, Buckingham Palace issued a press release saying, "The king's

life is moving peacefully toward its close."

Fifty years later, Lord Dawson revealed the truth: The king's life did not move peacefully toward its close; he was killed by his own doctor, who injected him with a combination of cocaine and morphine — the same combination that killed John Belushi.

Why did Dawson do it? So the king could die in time to meet the deadline for the morning papers, rather than — as Dawson put it — "the less dignified" afternoon papers.

Worst lawyer: The sad thing about Melvin Belli, aka "The King of Torts," is that he was once one of the best lawyers in America. He just hung on too long, and a lot of his clients got hurt in the process. The saddest of these was the "Diary Girl," a 15-year-old Hayward girl who was convicted of murdering her little sister, largely on the strength of a diary entry in which she "confessed" to the crime.

After the conviction, another lawyer took over the case and proved that the girl had a long history of lying to her diary — something Belli should have brought up at the original trial. The judge took the rare action of reversing her own conviction, blasting Belli for what she called his "incompetent representation." By then, the girl had spent 16 months in Juvenile Hall, longer than any other child in Alameda County history.

After that, it was all downhill. Belli started suing (and being sued by) his ex-clients, ex-wives, and ex-partners. One former partner sued Belli for encouraging his dogs to urinate and defecate outside the guy's office, adding, "They get an extra bone every time they do it."

Worst Scientist: Physicist Ernst Mach, the guy for whom the measurement of speeds greater than the speed of sound is named after. Unfortunately, he also wrote, "I can accept the theory of relativity as little as I can accept the existence of atoms and other such nonsense."

Worst Novelist: Jack Kerouac, the beatnik author who had a unique method of writing: He'd stick one end of a roll of teletype paper in his typewriter and keep tapping away until the roll ran out.

And he made it a point of pride never to change a word, declaring that all his writing was inspired by the Holy Ghost — which is why some of his sentences would run on for three or four pages.

After reading Kerouac's most famous novel, "On The Road," Truman Capote exclaimed, "That's not writing! That's typing!"

Worst Newspaper Columnist: Hollywood gossip columnist Louella Parsons. She couldn't write her way out of a paper sack, but her power as the columnist for the Hearst papers made her feared and courted by even the high and mighty. "You'd better make peace with that old broad," was Jack Warner's standard advice.

So how did she get her job in the first place? Simple: She was toiling as an obscure, \$60-a-week columnist at a time when William Randolph Hearst was lavishing his entire fortune trying to make his mistress, Marion Davies, a star.

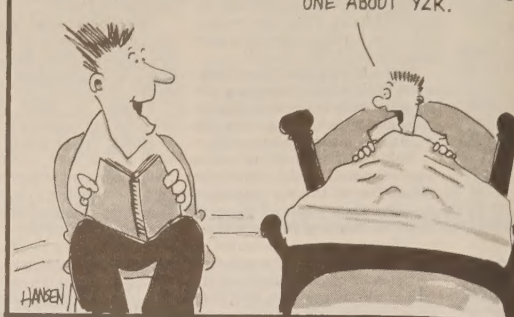
Every Hearst paper was ordered to write reviews of her movies every day, until poor Davies became a standing joke.

That's when Louella had the one

HAPPY MILLENIUM

A SCARY STORY?
HOW ABOUT FRANKENSTEIN
OR DRACULA?

NO, DAD. I WANT A REEEL SCARY STORY. TELL ME THE ONE ABOUT YZK.



bright idea of her life. She wrote a column criticizing Hearst for not pushing Davies' career hard enough.

She knew her man, all right. Hearst hired her away at \$20,000 a week, and the rest is history.

Worst Yes-Man: Lavrenti P. Beria, head of the dreaded Soviet Secret Police, the NKVD (now known as the KGB), from 1938 until dictator Josef Stalin's death in 1953. During a meeting of the Politburo, Stalin was arguing in such a rage that he suffered a stroke and crashed unconscious to the ground.

While everyone else stared at the apparently dead dictator, Beria jumped up and started dancing around the body, shouting, "We're free at last! Free at last!" Just then, Stalin opened one eye. Beria immediately dropped down beside him, seized his hand, and covered it with kisses.

Beria's quick thinking saved him — but not for long. Stalin died for real a few days later. The first thing his successors did was to take Beria out and shoot him.

Worst Movie: The nominees are: "The Conqueror" (1956), a biography of Genghis Khan starring (no kidding) John Wayne. Poor Duke is forced to utter lines like "I feel this Tartar woman is for me, and my blood says, take her!"

"The Horror of Party Beach" (1964), which manages to combine the worst parts of grade-Z sci-fi flicks with the worst parts of grade-Z beach party movies. Check out Eulabelle Moore, playing an Aunt Jimema-type black maid, who keeps saying, "It's the voodoo, I tell ya!"

"Lost Horizon" (1973) perhaps the worst remake of all time. (The original version, directed by the great Frank Capra, was one of the classics of the 1930s.) The remake was such a flop, it was quickly dubbed "Lost Investment."

The winner is: "Robot Monster," a 1953 sci-fi horror flick featuring robot invaders in gorilla suits and diving bell helmets. The reaction to this film was so negative, the director committed suicide shortly after its release.

Worst Actor: Charlton Heston. "That Chuck Heston is a nice fellow," said actor Aldo Ray, "but what a ham!" Aldo wasn't kidding. Heston's acting style consists of two poses: breathing heavily (meaning he's feeling something) and crumpling up his face (meaning he's thinking something).

Eyebrows were raised all over Hollywood when Heston won the Oscar in 1959 for "Ben-Hur." The funny thing is that during the filming, Heston had no idea what was really going on. Screenwriter Gore Vidal and Heston's co-star, Steven Boyd, decided that the love-hate rivalry between Ben-Hur and his archenemy, Massala, made sense only if they played the relationship with a homosexual subtext. They took their plan to director William Wyler. "Great idea!" said Wyler. "But don't ever tell Chuck what it's all about, or he'll fall apart."

Worst Press Agent: W.S. "Bow-Wow" Wojciechowicz, who represented actor Chill Wills, an Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor in 1960 for "The Alamo."

Bow-Wow was worth his weight in dog biscuits. First, he ran an ad in the trade papers featuring a photo of "The Alamo" cast, with the words, "We of the 'Alamo' cast are praying hard — harder than the real Texans prayed for their lives in the

Alamo — for Chill Wills, the Academy Award nominee for Best Actor in 1960 for "The Alamo."

A few days later, Wills, second ad, listing every member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences alphabetically and then was lost or draw, you're my love you all. Your cousin, Chill Wills."

That prompted Grammy-winning pianist Mr. Chill Wills, I am doing your cousin, but I won't be there."

Worst Open Singer: Melba, the Australian whose favorite role was in Verdi's "Otello." During a dramatic scene, when Desdemona is strangled by her husband, Melba suddenly rose from her seat and sang "Home, Home," with the audience often for several choruses.

That done, she took to her deathbed and remained there until the poor guy who was Otello would be allowed to strangle her — something she wished he could do.

Melba had one other position: She was the woman whom Melba toast was named after, proving it's not over until the lady sings.

Worst Baseball Player: Eugene Thronberry, the first baseman for the New York Mets — better known as the Marv, in tribute to his uncle, Marv. He was the only player who proved it's not over until the lady sings.

Take just one game: Mets vs. Cubs, June 17, 1961. In the ninth inning, he reached third base, triple, only to be called out for touching first. Manager Stengel stormed out of the dugout, only to be called back to protest, only to be called back to protest, only to be called back to protest.

Finally, in the bottom of the ninth, Marvelous Marv came to bat with two men on and two outs. He struck out on three pitches.

One day, Stengel got on his birthday, and someone asked why Thronberry had ten a cake on his birthday. Stengel: "We were afraid he'd eat it."

Dumbest Super Bowl: The second runner-up: The Super Bowl, asked anyone who's watched Super Bowl: "If you could watch what kind of tree would you want to be?"

First runner-up: Doug Williams, Washington Redskins quarterback, and an African American, asked before Super Bowl: "How long have you been in the quarterback?"

The winner: Jim Frazier, Raiders quarterback and a blind man, was asked before Super Bowl: "How long have you been in the quarterback?"

And finally, Worst Press Agent: "We don't like their press agent."

See SNAPP, Page A4

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH
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THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Define

FROM PAGE A1

went on with the meeting."

It would be nice to report that life was kind to Savio, as a reward for his good works. But it's not true. He never made much money, and when he died in 1996 he was discouraged by the rightward trend in this country.

But he had a family who loved him and shared his love for the truth. And he leaves a legacy to his legion of admirers, many of whom never met him, of honesty, decency, and a never-flagging passion for justice.

Moe Moskowitz

Not surprisingly for a college town, Berkeley is a city of bookstores — and memorable bookstore owners, including the late Fred Cody and Frank Morley.

But none was more memorable than Moe Moskowitz, the eponymous owner of Moe's Books and the unofficial mayor of Telegraph Avenue.

People think of Moe as a product of the '60s, but they couldn't be more wrong. Moe hated the '60s — at least, his excesses. He'd snort at the more over-the-top tactics of the People's Park demonstrators. (He used to call it "some people's park.")

But his greatest wrath was reserved for dope dealers. Moe was throwing them out of his store decades before it became fashionable. Not for him the self-indulgent posturing and self-righteous intolerance of the Baby Boomers. Moe came from an earlier generation — a generation that prized words and ideas above all. He never could fathom why people wanted to befuddle their minds with drugs when there were so many good books to read, instead.

But he was a notorious soft touch for the down-and-out, even when he knew they were scamming him. He also let anyone off the street use the bathroom, which tended to make it a bit funky.

But if you like to read, Moe's Books was — and is — a booklover's paradise. One of the reason other book-sellers revered him was that he revo-

lutionized the used book business.

He did it by the simple expedient of paying decent wages to his staff and giving fair prices to his customers for the books they turned in.

"If he ever caught us paying less than the book was worth, he'd hit the ceiling," says Bob Baldock, one of the longtime Moe's staffers who went on to found Black Oak Books. "Actually, it turned out to be smart business practice in the long run, but Moe did it because he thought of the customers as his family." It was a sentiment his customers and fellow book dealers returned with interest.

When Moe died in 1997, Harvey Segal, who owns Shakespeare's Books right across the street, paid tribute with this sign in his window: "Old booksellers never die; they just go out of print."

John Adams

As the song goes, they all laughed in 1987, when word got out that Berkeley composer John Adams was writing a grand opera called "Nixon in China." Even Tom Brokaw felt compelled to make a sarcastic remark about it on "The NBC Nightly News." And this was before anyone had even heard it!

But they sang a different tune five months later, when "Nixon in China" received its world premiere. Almost instantly, everyone realized that this was one of the greatest operas of this or any other generation. The soaring arias, the powerful choruses, the fascinating rhythms sent the critics into peals of ecstasy.

"Not since Benjamin Britten's 'Peter Grimes' in the mid-1940s has the lyric theater found a voice who seems so at ease in the medium," raved the San Francisco Examiner's Alan Ulrich. "If there is any other American composer writing with such unforced melodic appeal, the world deserves to know about it."

And the public concurred. "Nixon" has played to packed houses in more than a dozen different cities, and was televised by PBS. The record won a Grammy and was named one of the "Ten Most Important Recordings of the Decade" by Time magazine.

The cheers were even louder four

years later, when Adams' second opera, "The Death of Klinghoffer," premiered. Based on the terrorist hijacking of the Achille Lauro and the murder of one of its passengers, this was a work of truly tragic grandeur. One critic said it "evokes with equal aplomb a Monteverdi arioso, a Mendelssohn scherzo, or 'Duke of Earl'."

Born and raised on the East Coast, Adams moved to California in the late '60s and soon became a quintessential "California composer" — breaking free of East Coast academic strictures of composing.

When the minimalist movement started in the late 1960s and early '70s, Adams became one of its most engaging proponents, and was the only one to use minimalism in large choral and orchestral works, like "Harmonium." (1981) In recent years, in works like "Chamber Symphony," his music has become busier, more difficult for musicians to play, with more complex overlapping polyrhythms.

Now that "accessibility" is such a buzzword in concert music, it's hard to remember that in the late '70s and early '80s there were very few listenable compositions being written for orchestras. Adams virtually started the trend in the last 20 years of tonal symphonic scores that harken back to the 19th Century in their sensuous melodies and lush harmonies.

Today, he is the most frequently performed American composer. He was the first composer-in-residence at the San Francisco Symphony. And his Violin Concerto won the prestigious Graveney Award, which is given to only one new classical piece per year.

You don't have to be a film buff to get swept up by "Citizen Kane." You don't have to be an art historian to appreciate the Mona Lisa. And you don't have to have a degree in musicology to be moved by John Adams' music, whether it's an early work like the septet "Shaker Loops" (1978) or a more recent one like his opera "I Was Looking At The Ceiling And Then I Saw The Sky" (1988), an "earthquake/romance" whose title is a quote from a survivor of the Northridge earthquake.

Like Verdi, Adams chooses the

greatest issues of the day for his subject matter. Like Stravinsky, he works with cutting-edge collaborators (director Peter Sellars, choreographer Mark Morris, and poets Alice Goodman and June Jordan). Like Bach, his music conveys power and grandeur. And like Mozart, he seems to be a bottomless well of beautiful melodies.

But he's really like none of them. There is only one John Adams. His music delights the ear, stirs the soul and gladdens the heart. He is one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, right up there with his heroes, Duke Ellington and Igor Stravinsky.

And yet he's just a regular Berkeley guy at heart. You're as likely to see him in jeans, shopping at the Berkeley Bowl with his kids, as you are to see him in tails, striding into Davies Hall.

Ron Dellums

Over the years, Berkeley has been amazingly fortunate in its public servants: Byron Rumford, Tom Bates, Loni Hancock, Jeff Leiter, Barbara Lee — the list goes on and on.

But the greatest of them all is Ron Dellums.

He is the man who killed the B-1 bomber.

He is the man who, more than any other American, brought about Nelson Mandela's release from prison and rise to power in South Africa.

He is the man whom Rep. John Conyers called "the conscience of the Congress."

The nephew of the legendary labor leader C.L. Dellums, Ron first served his country as a United States Marine, where he encountered more than his share of racism.

But he was never a man of war. Instead, he almost single-handedly revived the peace movement in Berkeley in the late '60s and early '70s, after the dark days of Robert Scheer's losing campaign against pro-war Congressman Jeffrey Cohelan and the bloodshed of People's Park.

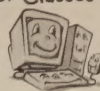
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See DEFINE, Page A6

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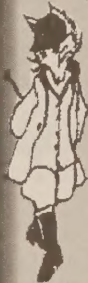
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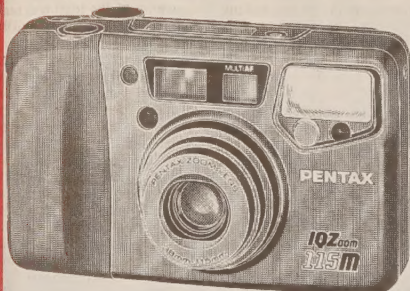
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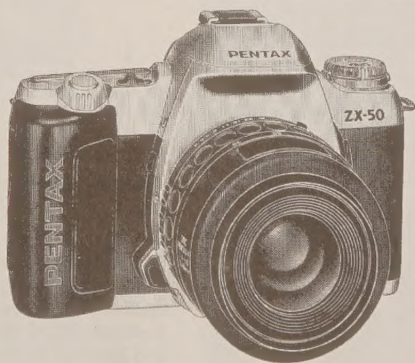
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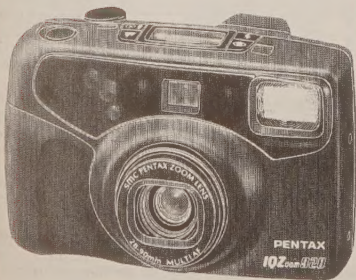


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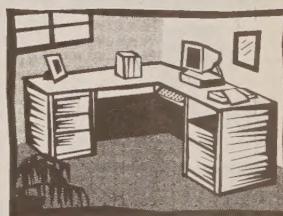
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El Cerrito

FROM PAGE A1

"We clearly not the project that we thought we could get," said Councilman Mark Friedman at the time. "But certainly a much better project than contemporary multi-screen cinema and, perhaps, a parking garage shared with BART patrons."

January

The council rejected the Plaza owners' request for redevelopment funds to help reconstruct the shopping center without a cinema or shared parking center stage. Plaza Meritakes Association President Wil Chun with the City Council/Redevelopment Agency to "fast track" the Plaza's plans. The Services for the Century Committee of the Whole voted overwhelmingly to recommend the Redevelopment Agency go into hiatus until its \$780,000 debt to the city is paid. Maxwell Office Products closed doors after 53 years of business in El Cerrito. An 11-year-old girl reported an attempted abduction near Adams Middle School. The girl fought off the suspect and ran for help. Honda of El Cerrito, needing more space for its expanding business, requested Redevelopment Agency assistance to move to the old Food Bowl site.

March

Police report that a 25-year-old Southern California woman, in the Bay Area on business, was abducted in Richmond, taken to El Cerrito and raped. A suspect was later arrested and charged. A Swim Center Citizens Advisory Committee is formed to get more accurate estimates about how much it will cost to rehabilitate or replace the aging swim center. The late Charles E. Wilson and his wife, Lucy W. Wilson, were voted into the El Cerrito Wall of Fame by the City Council.

April

The council approved an ordinance that prohibits tobacco advertisements within 1,600 feet of city schools and playgrounds and requires merchants who sell tobacco products to get a tobacco retailers license. The Commit-

tee of the Whole celebrates its one-year anniversary. More than 400 El Cerritos take part in the city's Earth Day activities and celebrations. Plaza owners unveiled their latest plan for the 33-acre site. Project Manager Ronald Holley promises "general retail types" of businesses and "components of the urban edge" in the plan. Acting on a controversial Committee of the Whole recommendation, the City Council votes to put the Redevelopment Agency into hiatus until its debt to the city is repaid. Kirby's Restaurant, a Plaza staple for more than 40 years, closes its doors. A Solano County woman, returning to her car at the Del Norte BART, was kidnapped at knifepoint. She was later able to fight off the attacker and call police on her cell phone.

May

Mayor Gina Brusatori dedicated the new playground equipment at Poinsett Park. After some controversy, the council approved a plan to switch municipal elections to even-numbered years. The plan calls for council members elected in November 1999 and November 2001 to be elected to three-year terms to facilitate the change to even-

year elections. An estimated 300 people took part in the festivities of the Sister Cities Parade and Multicultural Festival. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the El Cerrito Veterans Memorial Garden at City Hall.

June

Phase I of Plaza revitalization, plans to reconstruct the northern part of the shopping center, were approved by the Planning Commission. The plan calls for 227,000 square feet of newly constructed commercial space and a 67,000-square-foot combination grocery/drug store. Plaza architect Edward Gee said the new building designs have an "urban-type look." The council pledged \$150,000 towards a new soccer field at Portola Middle School. A \$15.5 million fiscal year 1999-2000 El Cerrito budget was approved by the City Council. A controversial plan to remove up to 91 trees in Blake Garden in Kensington is criticized by many in the community. The plan is later modified and somewhat scaled back to alleviate public concerns.

July

The Eighth annual El Cerrito Ro-

tary Club July 4 Fair drew an estimated 5,000 folks to the Community Center. Idaho Apartments have a "grand opening" to show off the newly refurbished apartments to provide permanent and affordable housing for homeless disabled adults. The popular Mr. Michael's family restaurant in the Plaza closed its doors. The City Council voted (3-2) to approve \$5,000 for a fire prevention plan (the "vegetation management demonstration project") on the western slope of Wildcat Canyon. Thirty-four people participated in a community design workshop to tell consultants what they would like to see in a new swim center.

August

Two local organizations, Sustainable El Cerrito and Celebrating Culture and Community, along with local artists, organize and plan for El Cerrito's contribution to the County Arts Millennium celebration. McGruff the Crime Dog, the mayor, council members, police officers and several El Cerrito neighborhoods participated in National Night Out activities. Four people — Janet Abelson, Kathleen Perka, Letitia Moore and Beatrice O'Keefe — filed papers to run for City

Council. At the request of the city manager, Police Chief Linda Fellers resigned her post. Citing confidentiality issues, neither City Manager Gary Pokorny nor Fellers would say why the chief was asked to resign as head of the 33-member department. Peter Sama is named Interim Police Chief. The City Council empowered an Economic Development Task Force to create an "economic development strategy and action plan" for the city's Economic Development Program.

September

Consultants hired by the city develop a \$4.9 million master plan to reconstruct the swim center. The plan, developed in conjunction with citizen input, was unanimously recommended to the City Council by the Park and Recreation Commission. The Committee of the Whole also voted to recommend the plan to the council. Later, the council voted to accept the recommended plan and create a Public Facilities Task Force to look into a March 2000 ballot measure to fund the project. El Cerrito Rose Lemberg received the 1999 Humanitarian Award from the State Humane Association of California for

See EL CERRITO, Page A8

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El Cerrito

FROM PAGE A1

more than 20 years of work to better the conditions of animals throughout the state. The new General Plan is approved by a 3-2 vote of the City Council. The approval caps a year and a half of public meetings, council debate and community workshops to develop the new plan.

October

El Cerrito has its 10th annual Citywide Garage Sale. The fourth annual October Fiesta, sponsored by the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, is held at the Plaza. The City Council votes to direct staff to develop a work plan with time line on how to deal with city street rehabilitation. Consultants hired by the city estimate it would cost about \$725,000 a year for the next five years just to maintain El Cerrito's street pavement at its current rating. A petition was started to allow Gordy Napolitano and his Arlington Meats counter to continue leasing space in Young's Market near the Colusa Circle in Kensington. A new owner of the market had wanted to end the butcher's lease. Later, Napolitano was offered a long-term lease with an option to buy shares in the business.

November

Janet Abelson and Kathleen Perka were elected to the City Council. Patricia Player and George Harris III were elected to the West Contra Costa Unified School District board. Artist Isabelle Delloye worked to put the finishing touches on a 21-foot by 10-foot tile mural painted by the students of Castro Elementary School. General Manager Jack Freethy announced that El Cerrito Mill and Lumber

Co., operated in El Cerrito by the Freethy family since 1944, will soon cease operations and be sold. New playground equipment at Cerrito Vista Park is dedicated at a noon buffet luncheon attended by more than 100 people. Four young California Arts Scholar Award winners — MacKenzie Marshall, Emma Maack, Candace Wong and Russell Nichols — were honored at a reception jointly sponsored by Celebrating Culture and Community, and the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. The El Cerrito Veterans Memorial Garden was dedicated on Veterans Day. "A grateful community honors our veterans. Past, present and future. El Cerrito 11-11-99," reads a polished granite plaque on the memorial. The City Council balked at approving the final map of the Plaza because owners wanted to scale back the Farmers Market to Wednesdays only. The Plaza owners later agreed to continue the Farmers Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays and the final map was approved. A computer-assisted fire study commissioned by the East Bay Regional Park Service shows that Wildcat Canyon along El Cerrito's eastern border represents a fire threat to the community. The City Council, with newly sworn in council members Abelson and Perka, unanimously gave final approval to put a \$5.3 million tax measure on the March 2000 ballot. An amendment to the measure adding a "dedicated maintenance and capital replacement fund," indexed to the real estate property transfer tax, had caused some prior controversy. The measure would fund rehabilitation of the swim center, Canyon Trail Clubhouse and restroom facilities at Harding, Huber and Poinsett parks.

December

In its annual reorganization, the City

Council votes to name Councilman Mark Friedman mayor. Councilman Larry Damon mayor pro tem (vice mayor) and outgoing Mayor Gina Brusatori the new chairwoman of the Redevelopment Agency. After serving eight years on the City Council, retiring council members Norman La Force and Jane Bartke are feted by more than 60 friends, colleagues and family at an evening reception. Interim Fire Chief Mark Scott was appointed the permanent chief of the El Cerrito Fire Department. "The city's made an investment in me and I've made an investment in the city," Scott told the council. A preliminary report from the Economic Development Task Force listed 22 "immediate objectives" in its action plan, including creation of an on-going economic development commission, hiring a full-time economic development manager and launching a campaign to improve the city's image and attractiveness to business. The Great American Dry Cleaners is told by Plaza owners that it will have to move its dry cleaning plant off-site because of liability issues. Shop owners James and Jennie Koo say such a requirement will doom their business.

Albany

FROM PAGE A1

when a jury found "not guilty" a homeless man cited for camping at the bulb. Jurors accepted a "necessity defense," which argues that people must have a place to sleep.

Attorneys also charged the city sent former residents to Berkeley and other cities rather than establishing homeless programs.

Albany City Attorney Robert Zweben, however, said that the city participates in county homeless plans, will continue to enforce ban, but perhaps in a different manner.

University Village, the tract of aging housing used by graduate students at UC-Berkeley, faced its own projects and issues.

The university proceeded with plans to replace the buildings, many of which were built as temporary units for defense workers during World War II, with a complex of new residences.

Many students, however, say they will be unable to afford the modern housing, which also carries more modern rents.

The university has already replaced some buildings and work will proceed, but it has agreed to reexamine plans to replace some of the buildings.

Next to University Village on an open portion of the Gill Tract used by UC students for agricultural studies, another set of issues arose in 1999.

Parents of students at the new Ocean View Elementary School organized to pressure UC and College of Natural Resources not to spray RoundUp, an herbicide used to control weeds on the Gill Tract. The university maintains that use of the chemical is limited and done under controlled conditions.

What was being grown and studied at the Gill Tract, and who was directing what was done there, also came into the spotlight.

In March, Peter Rosset, Executive Director of Food First, the Institute for Food and Development Policy, expressed concern regarding "a deal" that the College of Natural Resources at Berkeley signed with agricultural biotechnology firm Novartis. CNR manages fields at the Gill Tract. Novartis is a Swiss company that develops bio-engineered crop varieties that are resistant to herbicides, "and contain pesticides within them that we think

pose a risk of risk to the environment and the environment. As an outcry rose about what is seen as a controversy at the Gill Tract, the university again.

A man taking photos of rows of experimental crops in a large in Albany owned by the university.

According to the university, the action — part of a growing resistance to genetically modified crops — took place July 17.

Felde said the crop loss incident, one of several that occurred in 1999, were not being used in any studies.

In November, the Bay Area for Urban Agriculture — a coalition of environmental and neighborhood organizations — talks with the UC campus entering into a partnership with the university to establish an educational center for culture at the Gill Tract.

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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal

December 31, 1999

Section B

Karen Senzig Detailed records give borrowers the edge [B4]

Weekly Sales Did 1999 go out with a bang? Check the stats [B6]

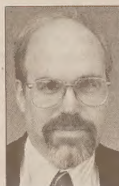
Classified Buy it, sell it, trade it inside [B7]

Open spaces bustle at campus, Island City

Berkeley, Alameda urban parks take center stage in Bay Area survey

PART FOUR OF FOUR PARTS

Owning a Piece of History



By Mark Wilson

"Architects the world over submitted nearly 800 proposals during the next three years..."

When I first visited Berkeley as a high school student in 1969, I came mainly as a prospective Cal student. My first impression of the place, having lived in the suburbs of Los Angeles for six years, was that the campus was incredibly green and open for a major university with more than 33,000 students and faculty. In fact, the campus felt more like a large urban park than a college site.

Before I left Berkeley to return to Los Angeles, I visited an impromptu city park that had become famous as the site of student protests only a few weeks earlier. People's Park was then closed off behind a chain link fence, and most of its area that had been paved over on the orders of its owners, the Regents of the University of California.

But that would all change drastically in the spring of 1972, when another generation of Berkeley students tore down the chain link fence and "liberated" People's Park. By the end of that summer, this one block square plot of land had assumed its current appearance as Berkeley's newest urban open space.

Both the university and People's Park

illustrate the diversity of urban parks and landscaped open spaces in the East Bay. In part four of this series, we shall examine the history, characteristics and settings of four historic and dynamic open spaces: the Berkeley campus, Berkeley's Civic Center, People's Park and Alameda's Franklin Park.

Welcome to bear territory

Just over 130 years ago, the future site of the University of California at Berkeley was a sylvan, tree-shaded grassland

See WILSON, Page B12



EDMUND LEE/CONTRA COSTA SUN

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY campus is a refuge of greenery in the heart of urban Berkeley. In a scene similar to one in the 1960s, hundreds of people gathered at Sproul Plaza at Cal to protest the goings-on at KPFA and Pacifica this summer. Faithful listeners and supporters showed up to make known their dissatisfaction over the radio station lock-down and staff firings, and demanded that the station be returned to the community.

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The sun and stars that float in the open air,

The apple-shaped earth and we upon it, surely the drift of them is something grand — Walt Whitman

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Survey finds we prefer life's simple pleasures

From Inman News Features

Consumers may want to pay attention to home prices after the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that housing completions fell in October.

Basing completions on a seasonally-adjusted rate for new privately-owned housing units, the Commerce Department reported October's rate was 1.637 million completed units. September's figures were 1.652 million. Despite the completions cooling, the rate was still greater than the 1.455 million in October of 1998.

The South led the way in total completions, with 778,000, compared to 758,000 in September. The West was next, with 405,000 units, a drop from 439,000, followed by the Midwest at 340,000, up from 315,000, and the Northeast dropped from 140,000 in September to 114,000 in October.

In October of last year, the South had a rate of 661,000, the West a rate of 375,000, the Midwest a rate of 288,000 and the Northeast a rate of 131,000.

Life's simple pleasures

With the availability of all sorts of techno-doochiekeys, sometimes it's important to remember the simpler things in life are what counts.

In fact, a recent study of 440 Arizona, California, Florida and Texas homebuyers who bought homes in the \$150,000-\$250,000-range, suggests buyers prefer the simpler things in life.

Things like quiet neighborhoods, light traffic and plenty of green space are tops on their lists, according to the Oakland-based American LIVES Inc. study.

People, it seems, preferred a cul-de-sac to a golf course, a nearby park to a gated entrance and say those fancy add-ons like tennis courts and swimming pools are low on their lists of priorities.

So-called new urbanist features, like narrow streets centered on town square, prominent front porches, backyard garages and higher densities also scored low, with only about 10 percent of respondents listing them as important.

The survey also found gender differences among the respondents, with men being 1.5 times more likely than women to consider a gated entrance important. Women tended to favor exercise and fitness centers, teen activity programs and town centers with small shops and coffee bars, while men leaned more toward golf courses, pools and public amphitheaters.

And men also showed a greater preference for churches and other places of worship.

Y2K is here

The year 2000 is upon us. So if you're afraid of Y2K and thinking of pulling your money out of the bank and stowing it under or in your mattress, you may want to think again—your home insurance likely won't cover it.

Remember, the federal govern-

ment insures bank accounts for up to \$100,000, while most homeowner insurance policies only cover the first \$200 in cash losses.

As for other tips regarding Y2K preparedness, it's important to remember the average home may have 20 to 25 "computer chips," or microprocessors, incorporated into various electrical appliances and equipment. But almost none of these products use chips that depend on the calendar or the date, according to a tip list prepared by HomeGain (www.homegain.com).

As operation doesn't depend on the specific day of the week, month or year, there shouldn't be any adverse effects.

While consumer electrical appliances tend to have chips that depend on the clock, or the specific time of the day, the particular day usually does not matter.

Some appliances that may be affected, though, include telephones, clocks, fax machines, home computers, cameras, cellular phones, VCRs, camcorders and alarms.

Appliances that won't be affected should include air conditioners, heaters, audio equipment, bread makers, dishwashers, microwave ovens, refrigerators, stoves, TVs and coffee makers.

All things considered, it sure will be nice to have that coffee maker working when you finally crawl out of bed and face that Y2K hangover.

Mortgage delinquencies fall

Residential mortgage delinquen-

cies fell and the inventory of loans in the foreclosure process dropped in third-quarter 1999, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

The mortgage delinquencies fell 3 basis points, to 4.1 percent. While the percentage of loans in which foreclosure started during the quarter was unchanged at 0.3 percent, the inventory of loans in the foreclosure process at the end of the quarter declined 11 basis points to 0.98 percent.

The decline in the delinquency rate continues a downward trend that began in the second quarter of 1998 and is now at its lowest level since registering 3.92 percent in the first quarter of 1995.

"The delinquency situation continues to benefit from the prolonged refinancing boom experienced from 1998 to early 1999 and the influx of new mortgages associated with the record levels of home sales in recent quarters," said Paul Reid, MBA executive vice-president. "As a result, almost half of the total number of mortgages outstanding were originated within the past two years."

This much larger than normal share of "new" mortgages, which typically have fewer delinquency problems, has helped bring the overall delinquency rate down.

Despite the delinquency rate decline for conventional loans, those rates for Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration loans jumped in the third quarter. They were reported at 8.72 percent,

up 17 basis points, and 6.9 percent, up 14 basis points, respectively.

The survey covered about 25 million loans on one-to-four unit residential properties, representing more than half of all "first-line" residential U.S. mortgage loans outstanding. Loans surveyed were reported by approximately 170 lenders including mortgage bankers, commercial banks, thrifts and life insurance companies.

Big-city rates

Big city living promises a host of differences from the suburbs. That includes different mortgage rates.

Bankrate.com has compiled rate averages for 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages covering 80 percent of the value of homes, in certain metropolitan areas.

So if you're looking to move or buy, here they are, as reported last week:

New York : 8.02 percent.
Chicago : 8 percent.
Philadelphia : 7.93 percent.
Houston : 7.89 percent.
Dallas : 7.82 percent.
San Francisco : 7.81 percent.
Boston : 7.76 percent.
Los Angeles : 7.74 percent.
Washington D.C. : 7.74 percent.
Detroit : 7.69 percent.

Inman News writers Lynn Burke, Carl Holcombe and Warren Lutz contributed to this report. For more real estate news, please visit Inman News Features at www.inman.com.

Home ownership proves nation's standard of success

By Steve Kerch

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If there is a story of the century in American housing, it is probably the country's turnaround from a nation of renters 100 years ago to a nation of homeowners at the end of 1999.

The latest statistics from the Department of Housing and Urban Development found 67 percent of Americans owning a home at the end of the third quarter, an all-time high that was fueled largely by homeownership gains among minorities. The percentages mean 70.5 million families in this country own their homes.

One hundred years ago, it was just the opposite, with only about one-third of Americans owning a home. But all that changed following World War II, when government-backed mortgages and more liberal tax and lending policies combined to make it far easier for average people to buy houses. In some parts of

the country, renters have actually become an endangered species. In Chicago, for instance, a spate of condominium conversions coupled with a suburban distaste for approval of new apartment construction has reduced the rental housing stock to the point where, in some portions of the metro area, apartment vacancies are less than 2 percent, according to a recent analysis by Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Brokerage's Chicago office.

Why have we felt compelled to create a nation of homeowners? The long-espoused belief is that homeowners make better citizens. If you own a house, the thinking goes, you have a stake in the community—you are more willing to put down roots in that spot, more likely to be involved in your neighborhood, more inclined to vote and, in general, more active in the welfare of society as a whole.

Apartment industry trade groups have challenged that logic in the past, and just recently the National Multi Housing Council produced a

new research study that it says refutes those homeownership myths.

The study, conducted for the council by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, found that renters really are more socially engaged, equally involved in community groups and similarly attached to their communities and religious institutions when compared with their homeownership counterparts.

"Apartment residents should get much more credit for being good neighbors and active participants in their local communities," said Jonathan Kempner, president of the National Multi Housing Council. "The differences between house owners and apartment residents have clearly been overstated."

Among the study's findings:

■ Nearly 33 percent of apartment dwellers report spending a social evening at least once a week with someone who lives in their neighborhood, compared to just under 17 percent of house owners. ■ Equal per-

centages of homeowners and renters are members of sports groups (21.8 percent), while 10.3 percent of apartment dwellers and 10.8 percent of house owners are members of a literary, art, discussion or study group.

■ Nearly half of apartment residents, 44 percent, attend religious services at least once a month compared to 54.7 percent of homeowners.

■ More than 60 percent of renters say they feel "close" or "very close" to their town or city, with 66 percent saying they are "interested" or "very interested" in politics and national affairs, both of which put them at about the overall national average for people reporting such levels of interest.

Still, there is probably no stopping the march toward increased homeownership in the coming century.

Even though minorities are catching up with whites in terms of their percentage of homeownership, they still have a long way to go: Blacks own at a 47 percent rate, Latinos at

a 45.5 percent clip and whites at 73.5 percent. As minority outreach programs in both the realty and mortgage businesses continue to grow, we can expect additional gains for minorities in the coming years, which in turn should drive the homeownership rate even higher.

One thing that you can't argue with is that homeownership has created enormous wealth for many Americans who invested in a house since World War II. By some estimates, we hold more than \$1 trillion in equity in our homes. For most older Americans, that means their house is their single biggest asset.

A disciplined renter certainly could sock away plenty of cash and make a tidy return. But one of the greatest advantages of homeownership has been its role as a forced savings plan—even if it sometimes feels more like a forced spending plan.

This holiday season, give the gift of cleaner air

During the holiday season, many Bay Area residents burn wood in their fireplaces. While for many this is a tradition, the smoke from these fires will cause breathing difficulties for others in the neighborhood. Wood smoke is a major source of air pollution during the winter months.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District asks Bay Area residents to give the gift of cleaner air this holiday season by following these guidelines:

1. Never burn garbage, chemically treated or painted wood, or glossy paper—including holiday wrapping paper in your fireplace. These materials can release toxic chemicals into the air when burned. Reuse or recycle gift wrap instead.
2. If you're burning wood, use only dry, seasoned wood. Moist, or "green" wood smol-

ders more, producing greater amounts of harmful air pollutants.

3. Start small fires with softwoods (such as pine and fir) that ignite easily and burn fast. Add larger hardwood logs after the fire is burning well.
4. Refuel while the fire is still hot. Small, frequent reloading will create less smoke.
5. Use manufactured composition logs instead of wood. The composition logs reduce the smoke and pollution from the fire by about 50 percent.
6. Check the chimney. Where there's smoke, there's probably a bad fire. Excess smoke means that the fire isn't burning properly.
7. The Air District has a free Woodburning Handbook with additional information and tips on woodburning. For a copy, call 1-800 HELP AIR.

Website makes it happen

You can visit The Bay Area Air Quality Management District online for more information. Surf over to www.sparetheair.org and take advantage of all-new interactive features. Real-time ozone movies will give you an up to the hour picture of ozone concentrations throughout the Bay Area.

The Employers' Toolbox has lots of helpful stuff for the coordinators at more than 1,000 participating businesses and organizations.

Spare the Air even added some pages in Spanish. Most favorite features from previous seasons are still available—including a revamped air quality forecast page. Take a look around.

—The Bay Area Air Quality Management District

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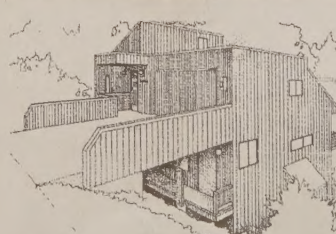
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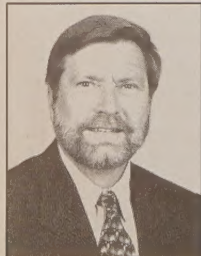
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The perfect home elusive? Prepare to compromise

Real Estate Forum



By
Dian Hymer

"Take your wish list with you when you look at houses. And give a copy of it to your real estate agent."

Even though you're looking for a certain set of characteristics in a home, the ambience of a home is what will probably cause you to buy it. But don't let yourself be seduced by good decorating or a spectacular setting. One couple bought their first home because it was on a sunny lot surrounded by magnificent trees. Enchanted by the setting, they overlooked the fact that the house lacked a dining room and there was no room for an eating area in the kitchen. They ended up eating out a lot until they moved to a house with a better floor plan a year and a half later.

Before you buy a home, detach yourself emotionally and analyze how the place measures up to your wish list. You need to feel comfortable in a home, so the ambience is important, but not at the expense of your critical housing needs.

Sometimes you have to make snap decisions about whether to buy a home. So get into the practice of analyzing every listing you see in terms of your housing needs.

The perfect home doesn't exist; be prepared to compromise.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide." Available in book stores or from Chronicle Books: (800) 722-6657.

access to the house (ideally to the kitchen); plenty of storage space; a security system; quality construction; architectural distinctiveness; a formal entry; a conveniently located laundry room; and a nice master suite.

Before you start looking for your ideal home, make a list of all the features you need and want in a home. If you're having trouble creating such a list, think about all the things you dislike about your current home. Be sure to include specialized needs such as an area suitable for a live-in nanny or one-level living if you're having trouble navigating stairs. After you compile the list, prioritize it so that you focus in on the features that are the most important to you.

Take your wish list with you when you look at houses. And give a copy of it to your real estate agent. He or she can tell you how realistic your wants are and if you need to rearrange your priorities.

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PROFESSIONALS ON THE MOVE



HANDOUT PHOTO

Nothing could be finer...

LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS were ably represented at a three-day international forum on luxury real estate and resort properties recently. According to Marlene Daniels-Bottano, manager of Prudential's Claremont and Piedmont offices, "It was enlightening to share the cutting edge techniques the Prudential Real Estate sales representatives are using to lure what are often long-distance (U.S.) and international buyers." Pictured from left to right are Prudential Piedmont and Claremont fine home specialists Julie Lehman, Julie Nachtwey, Grazina Bivins, Judith Glass, Haidah Chew, Marlene Daniels-Bottano, Rosalie Marshall, Caroline Peters, Rose Jellison, Claire Cunningham, Shiela Sabine and Barbara Hopper. Not pictured are Martine Erickson, Colette Ford, Nancy Hinkley and Vickie Robinson.

To be considered for Hills Newspapers' Real Estate Professionals on the Move, send your info to real estate editor, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94619. E-mail is preferred: send as regular text (no attachments please) to jnsydr1@cctimes.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESOURCES

A guide to some resources — stores, associations, designers, architects, contractors, books, Web sites — that may prove useful. Some of the names were borrowed from "Architectural Resource Guide," edited by David Kibbey for Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility.

Information

■ **Air quality.** The California Department of Health Services Indoor Air Quality Section maintains an excellent Web site with thorough information about molds in the home, asbestos, the dangers of ozone generators, and more. www.cal-iaq.org/

■ **Asbestos.** Check the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Web page, www.epa.gov/asbestos. Or call 415-744-1500.

■ **"Architectural Resource Guide,"** published by Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility, Northern California chapter. 510-273-2428. P.O. Box 9126, Berkeley, 94709. A comprehensive listing of environmental resources, products, and services from around the country. The group is a nonprofit that offers information to design professionals and the public on environmental building issues. Lectures on building ecology monthly in San Francisco.

■ **"Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings,"** published by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, contains useful listings of energy efficient products. 202-429-0063. Web site: <http://aceee.org>

■ **The Ecology Center.** 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. A bookstore and resource center carrying information and publications on various environmental topics.

■ **Energy.** PG&E is an excellent

source of information to make your home energy efficient. PG&E Comfort Homes: 800-474-3468; PG&E Smarter Energy Line: 800-933-9555. www.pge.com/saving/

■ **EPA.** The federal Environmental Protection Agency has an amazing variety of accurate and clearly presented information on-line. Start at epa.gov/iaq/indisid.html.

■ **"The Inside Story: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality,"** published by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in English and Spanish, is a clear and thorough guide, with references to many other agencies, publications and Web sites. Call 800-438-4318, or check the Web, www.epa.gov/iaq/indisid.html.

The EPA also runs the Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse, which makes available many brochures and advisories about carbon monoxide, carpets, "Asthma, Air Quality and Environmental Justice" and more. Call 800-438-4318.

■ **The Healthy House Institute.** 430 North Sewell Road, Bloomington, Indiana. 47408. 812-332-5073. Web site: www.hhinst.com. Carries books by John and Lynn Marie Bower about creating a healthy home.

■ **Household hazardous materials.** For information call your county department of health. Contra Costa: 925-646-2286. Solano: 707-421-6765. Alameda: 510-567-6855.

■ **Lead.** call the National Lead Information Center and Clearinghouse at 800-424-LEAD or 800-LEAD-FYI. (www.epa.gov/lead/nlic.htm), or the Contra Costa Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 510-374-3481.

Alameda County, call 510-567-8280; Solano County, 707-421-6765.

■ **Lung Association.** The American Lung Association provides a wealth of information on its Web site, www.lungusa.org/, ranging from general tips to detailed information about air cleaning devices. 1-800-LUNG-USA.

■ **"The New Natural House Book,"** \$22, and "The Natural House Catalog," \$23, both by David Pearson and published by Simon & Schuster, are useful, beautifully illustrated guides to every aspect of natural design.



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Fire safety tips start new year right

By John Schneider
and Toni Wilson

In the thought of dry, brittle trees strung with lights added it was time again for our fire safety column.

In 16 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States.

Many of these fires this time of year are in our homes. There are seasons for this.

Spending more time indoors this year, we have our furnaces fired up. The time, we may burn the fireplace and, of course, we have dry Christmas trees with lots of electrical lights in them.

There are precautions that you can take to help prevent a fire in your home.

Make sure drapes, furniture, and other combustible materials are three feet away from heaters, stoves and fireplaces.

Change the furnace filters as the manufacturer recommends to ensure proper air circulation and filtration.

Keep the damper open when using a fireplace or wood stove.

When only dry, well seasoned wood. Never burn your old Christmas tree!

Get rid of cooled ashes in a covered metal container. Don't leave newspapers and other flammable items lying around, recycle it.

More flammable liquids in closed, properly labeled, fire-resistant containers. Keep them away from direct sunlight and small flames.

When using flammable substances make sure you have plenty of ventilation and that you're not near sources of heat.

Should have at least one fire extinguisher on every level of your house as well as in or near all sleeping areas.

Important that you check smoke detectors monthly. If you replace the battery in your

smoke detectors within the past six months, do so now. Check the date on your fire extinguisher. If it is past due, have it recharged.

If a fire does break out in your home, it is extremely important that you act immediately. Smoke and poisonous gases are the leading causes of death from fires and can kill you long before the flames can reach you.

If more people fully understood fire's intense heat, the high speed at which it spreads, and the toxic power of smoke, they'd no doubt take early signs of fire much more seriously.

Once a fire has started, it is too

ALL ABOUT HOMES

late to start developing a plan. In order to take full advantage of the short time you have to safely escape, you need to already have a plan of action in place.

The following suggestions will help to prepare you and your family to snap into action if a fire occurs:

— Develop a step-by-step escape plan with all members of your family. Make sure it includes doors, windows, and outdoor features such as a balcony or porch roof which could be used for escape.

— Know at least two ways out of each room, and make sure these escape routes are working properly. Check the windows to be sure that they are not painted shut.

If there are security bars on any of the windows, make sure that they feature quick-release devices that everyone in the house can use.

— Decide on a location outside the home where everyone will meet upon exiting. This way you will know if someone is still trapped in the house.

If you are in a burning building choose the safest escape route, but if you must go through smoke to escape, crawl low under it where the air is cleaner and cooler.

Before opening a closed exit door, feel the knob and space between the door and the frame for any signs of warmth using the back of your hand.

If the door feels completely cool, open it slowly, but be prepared to slam it shut if smoke is on the other side.

At any sign of smoke, use an alternate exit or take action to protect yourself in that location.

The most important rule to remember if there is a fire: once you're out of the building, STAY OUT. Never go back inside a burning building.

If your home and property is damaged by a fire, one of the best things you can have is a full inventory of your belongings.

Take the time now to list and photograph or video tape all of your furnishings, jewelry, tools and other valuables.

Once your belongings are destroyed or missing, it is very difficult to remember everything that you owned.

Pictures are also very helpful to use with the insurance company when you are working on a settlement. Be sure to store this inventory in a fire safe metal box or somewhere outside the home such as a safe deposit box.

Also, remember to update it periodically, especially after you've received all those great Christmas gifts.

Have a safe holiday season. John Schneider and Toni Wilson operate All About Homes, a home inspection company specializing in construction and code consultation service. They have over 30 years of combined experience in the real estate and construction industries.

Readers may address questions and comments to All About Homes, 24326 Mission Blvd., Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. FAX: 537-8666.

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Clinton plans new vouchers for working-class housing

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — President Clinton will propose 120,000 new housing vouchers for working-class families in the federal budget that he will send to Congress in February, administration officials said Tuesday. It would amount to the largest expansion of the housing program in a decade.

The vouchers allow low-income families to find their own housing, and to use government subsidies to help pay the costs. Congressional Republicans have been reluctant to finance the program at the levels requested by the president in recent years, resulting in a large backlog in applicants. After Clinton proposed money for 100,000 vouchers this year, Congress eventually approved 60,000.

Currently, 1.4 million families receive such housing vouchers. But a report prepared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in March 1999 found that the number of families waiting for such assistance had increased to 600,000. The wait for vouchers has stretched to 10 years in Newark and Los Angeles, seven years in Houston and five years in Chicago and Memphis, the report found.

Aides said the president's proposed expansion, which will cost \$690 million, is designed to address a paradox of the current economic expansion. At the same time that the strong national economy is making many Americans rich, it is hurting millions of the nation's poorest people by making affordable housing more difficult to find.

"We have the greatest need for affordable housing in history," Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday in an interview. "The strong economy is driving up rents. This is the most aggressive housing budget of his administration. It is the largest request of the decade."

White House aides said Clinton would include in his budget a package of vouchers intended for individuals who are moving from welfare to work, homeless people, those with large families and working-class families designated by local housing authorities. All recipients would have to meet strict income requirements, about \$27,900 per family nationally.

"We see this as an important part of the overall strategy of supporting working families," an aide to Clinton said.

The president will deliver the broad outlines of his budget on Jan. 27 at his final State of the Union address. On Feb. 7, he will send the document to the Congress.

Housing experts say the voucher program has grown steadily from 1978 until 1995, when congressional Republicans stopped further expansions because of concerns about the management of the money. Since then, there have been only two moderate increases.

One key Republican lawmaker said the key question is how Clinton intends to finance the new vouchers.

"I strongly support additional vouchers, provided that the president can find an acceptable way to pay for them," said Rep. Rick A. Lazio of Long Island, chairman of the House housing subcommittee.

The vouchers continue to be sought-after commodities that can take years to obtain. The average subsidy, aides said, is about \$400 a month. The tenant kicks in \$223 a month, to cover an average rent of \$623.

"Many low-income families don't live near where their jobs are and this program allows them to move closer," a White House official said. "Housing is expensive and it's hard to find. This program allows them to fill in the gap."

Paper trail gives borrowers the edge

Mortgage Madness



By
Karen
Senzig

"It is easier to get the documentation as the transfers are happening than to go back later..."

While we can say that every loan has a life of its own and is unique, there is one thing most lenders insist on in every purchase transaction: "Show me the money."

The lender wants to know how the borrower got the money to purchase the property, where it is housed, how it will be liquidated and how it will be transferred to escrow.

This "paper trail" needs to begin at the beginning of the loan process, when the loan officer first takes the loan application.

Typically, when we first meet with prospective buyers, we ask them to provide three months' bank statements for all their savings, checking, mutual fund and stock accounts. The lender prefers three months of sea-

soned funds (funds held in the bank)

Any large deposits, such as a settlement from a lawsuit, a gift or an inheritance must be documented.

A gift, for example, needs to be accompanied by a gift letter that

states the donor's relationship to the borrower, the account where the funds are housed (proving the donor's ability to give), a copy of the check or wire from that account and a copy of the deposit into the borrower's account or escrow.

In the case of a lawsuit settlement we had recently, the lender required a letter from the attorney handling the case that depicted the amount of money that the borrower was expected to receive and then we documented the trail from the attorney's office to the borrower's account and then its transfer to escrow.

An inheritance may require a copy of the will, the transfer documentation from the probate trust to the borrower's account and then the transfer to escrow.

Slow escrow? Canceling contract isn't only option

VIRTUAL REAL ESTATE

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attorney.

It is not the house that concerns you. The escrow company cannot record a free and clear deed of trust in your name if the court has a bankruptcy lien against the property, but you could work with your agent and the seller's agent to accommodate you while waiting for some resolution. Perhaps you can arrange to take possession of the property until escrow closes.

Perhaps you could pay a reduced rent if you need to vacate your current rental. You could have them be responsible for the loss of interest on your deposit. There are many al-

ternatives to make this a win-win situation for all. Otherwise, you'll lose the house after investing so much time and energy purchasing it. If you decide to proceed with your cancellation, contact your agent and discuss the options with the seller.

— Dawn O'Neal, Re/Max Group

A: As for the deposit, both the buyer and seller must agree in writing how to handle the funds in escrow. If you cannot agree, a court will decide for you.

— Judi Souza, Escrow Expertise

Reversing a reverse mortgage

Q: How do I get out of a reverse mortgage contract? Your article regarding unscrupulous lenders mentioned a class action lawsuit either in San Mateo or San Francisco. I have a friend who lives in San Carlos who has taken out a reverse mortgage from Transamerica and would like to know how to join the class action to sue.

A: You can pay off a reverse mortgage by refinancing it much like any other mortgage, but the costs could be staggering. You need to examine your original contract to determine how to pay off the mortgage and

what costs you can avoid. It could be "shared appreciation" entitling the lender to a portion of any appreciation in the course of the loan. Penalties and other fees.

Class-action suits against reverse mortgages are being filed in both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. In San Mateo, the Human Investors' Group is suing Transamerica. In Santa Clara, call the city attorney fraud hotline.

Virtual Real Estate is neither legal advice nor professional counseling. Questions are asked for general information only. Without the full facts, given problem, answers read as basic information. A professional for your estate needs.

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Information is current as of December 28, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$252,700; jumbo loans are in excess of \$252,700. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. NO—not not quoted. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 1999 Consumer News Systems.



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'Buy right' to keep more money in home transaction

By Robert Bruss
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

REAL ESTATE NOTEBOOK

Based on a similar personal experience, I've concluded it's smart to buy a sound, well-located house where most people want to live, even if it costs a little more than those in less-expensive areas.

Top-quality school districts are usually the key indicator. Avoid areas with bad schools because they won't attract families who value education, thus depressing home values. The higher the demand for homes in a community, the greater their potential for market value appreciation.

Avoid condominiums and townhouses if you want to profit

Condos and townhouses can be great places to live. I've owned several and still own one as a second home. But most condos and townhouses do not appreciate as rapidly in market value as comparable single-family houses.

The market demand for condos and townhouses is limited. Most people want to own a house, thus holding demand down. Few people say, "Someday I want to own a condominium." Also, when the market demand for condos and townhouses rises, builders can usually quickly supply the demand, thus holding prices down. When a local market for condos and townhouses becomes glutted with oversupply, market values stagnate or fall.

Don't buy a 'red-ribbon deal'

Most home buyers want to pur-

chase a house in near-perfect condition so all they have to do is turn the key in the front door and move in. That's the way to sell houses, but it's not the way to buy houses if you want to avoid losing money and to make a profit.

If you buy a "red-ribbon deal" house in excellent condition, you will pay top price. However, if the local real estate market doesn't continue to appreciate in market value, you'll lose on that house because of selling expenses if you have to sell within a few years. Similarly, avoid buying the best house in the neighborhood because its marketability will be pulled down by less-expensive, nearby homes.

Instead, if you want to avoid losing money and to earn a profit, buy the worst house in a good neighborhood and fix it up. With the new \$250,000/500,000 principal residence tax exemption of Internal Revenue Code 121, all you need to do is own and live in your home two of the five years before sale to claim up to \$250,000 per owner resale tax exemption.

This wonderful tax law has created a new tax-free industry, known as "serial home sales." Owners can buy fixer-uppers, upgrade them and sell tax-free after two years of ownership and occupancy. Then, they can do it all over again, completely tax-free.

Buy wholesale, sell retail

Another way to avoid losing money and to earn a real estate profit is to "buy wholesale, sell retail." That means buying below market value, often because the property has a defect that most potential buyers don't want to tackle. Hopefully, you can

add value, such as by painting, cleaning, fixing and landscaping, to resell at a profit.

For example, I've bought foreclosure properties, both at the foreclosure sale and from the foreclosing mortgage lender if no bidders showed up at the auction.

A major advantage of buying from the foreclosing lender is excellent mortgage financing with a low down payment usually offered by the lender.

One of the best foreclosure houses I bought was from Fannie Mae. They even sent a representative to my house, along with a notary public to notarize my signature. I guess they didn't want me to get away.

Buy with a low down payment

Just in case you make a mistake and buy the wrong house or invest-

ment property, such as one adjacent to an undisclosed toxic waste dump, make as small a down payment as possible. Don't tell anyone, but once I paid a 20 percent cash down payment. However, buying with low 3, 5 or 10 percent down payments is more fun since it creates leverage.

To illustrate, suppose you buy a \$100,000 house with a \$10,000 down payment and a \$90,000 mortgage. If that house appreciates in market value just 5 percent (the current national average) in the next 12 months, that \$5,000 increased value is a 50 percent "profit" on your \$10,000 investment. However, if you foolishly paid \$100,000 cash for the same house, the \$5,000 increased value is only a 5 percent return on your investment.

Summary

To earn real estate profits on

home purchases, you must buy right. Today is an excellent time to buy a sound, well-located house with a low down payment. Fixer-uppers offer special profit opportunities for home buyers who are willing to renovate to earn profits.

Thanks to the new \$250,000/500,000 home sale tax exemptions, buying the right house with profit potential offers excellent tax-free opportunities.

More details are in my special report "How to Get Rich in Real Estate Today," available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at (800) 736-1736.

Can broker be convicted for false loan application?

By Robert J. Bruss,
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

YOU BE THE JUDGE

such facts were not a problem and he would indicate on the application that Vincent was self-employed.

On the application, Ronald also wrote that Vincent owned a \$50,000 BMW and \$30,000 of jewelry, which were both false statements.

Although Vincent offered to have documents forged to support his loan application, Ronald said that wouldn't be necessary.

A few days later, the mortgage broker faxed a 17-page loan application to the lender, including Vincent's false employment with VMS Enterprises for 10 years and \$12,000 per month income, plus the false car and jewelry information.

Neither Vincent nor Ronald ever signed the loan application. More than two years later, the

government filed a single-count criminal indictment charging Ronald with submitting a false loan application to a government lender with intent to influence action on a loan (a violation of 18 U.S.C. Code 1014).

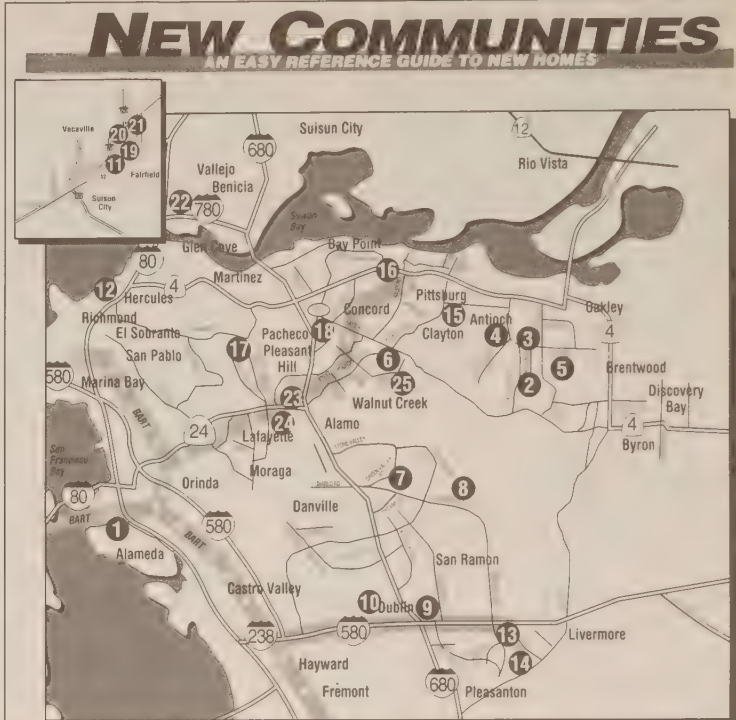
Ronald pled not guilty. A three-day trial was held.

If you were the judge would you rule Ronald is guilty of submitting a false loan application to a government lender even though that application was unsigned?

The judge said no. Since the lender could not have granted a mortgage loan based on an unsigned loan application, the judge said, there was insufficient evidence to convict mortgage broker Ronald.

An unsigned loan application would not support a conviction, the judge ruled.

Based on the 1999 U.S. Court of Appeals decision in *U.S. v. Sorensen*, 179 Fed.3d 823.



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From the \$230,000's. New Release! Richland's 4 & 5 BR. 2000-2600 sq ft. w/3 car gar. country kit. 7000+ sq ft. lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Dr. Open 11-5. 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

- 3 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection**
From high \$200,000's. Up to \$5K allowances! Final Phase. Rec. ctr. (pool/spa/tennis/more) 1 & 2 story. 2127-2696 sq ft. 3-BR/3 car gar. ext. amenities & lots. Lone Tree/Murwood. Davidson Homes. Open 10-5. 925-778-3092

- 4 Tourelle**
From low \$300,000's. New Release! Richland's 4-BR/3 car gar. 1, 2 stories. 2715-3935 sq ft. 10,000+ sq ft. lots. Dramatic entries. Lone Tree/Golf Course Rd. 11-5. 925-706-8883 or www.richlandinfo.com

BRENTWOOD

- 5 Diablo Vista**
From the \$200,000's. Grand Opening Celebration! Designs to 2700 sq ft. 5BR. 3BA. Commute loc. at Fairview/San Jose. Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193. www.richmondamerican.com

CONCORD

- 6 Crystall Ranch**
From mid \$400,000's. New Release! Luxury, rolling hills, 4 sparc. floor plans. 2400-3400 sq ft. elegant int. custom opts. Yonaco Winery on Pine Hollow/Rolling Woods Way. 925-687-3522/www.legacyluxuryhomes.com

DANVILLE

- 7 Campbell Place**
From the \$800,000's. 20 craftsman-style on lg. view lots w/1500 floor plans. 660 to Sycamore Vly. Rd. Etn. onto Camino Tassajara/rt. on Glasgow Dr. rt. on Glasgow Cir. rt. on Campbell Place. Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238

- 8 Shadow Creek Manor**
From low \$600,000's. Selling Final Phase! Closeout Sale! 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara. follow signs. Open 10-5, closed Tues/Wed. 925-736-7369

DUBLIN

- 9 Merriam at Emerald Park**
From high \$300,000's. New Release! Lux. mstr plan comm w/3 designs, to 2200 sq ft. 5BR/3BA, loft. Hacienda off 580 rt. BART. Open 10-5, Mon. 2-5. www.richmondamerican.com. 925-829-8029

- 10 Starward**
From low \$300,000's. 3-BR, 2BA, 2 story, steel built. Garden setting/ views/hwy. access/shopping/schools. 580/rt. San Ramon No./rt. Amador Vly./rt. Starward Dr. www.schulerca.com or 925-875-1060

FAIRFIELD

- 11 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley**
From mid \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Spacious, to 7BR. 1-80/rt. N Texas St./rt. Dickson Hill/rt. Dover/rt. Manuel Campos/rt. Paradise Vly. Dr. 10-5 Mon. 2:30-5. www.richmondamerican.com. 707-438-7800

HERCULES

- 12 Belletre**
From \$306,880. 4BR, 3BA, 2 1/2 car gar. Opt. 5th br. den. Steel-built/ structured cabling. Bay views. EZ commutes. 180/San Pablo Rd./Hercules. At/Titan Way. Open 10-5/Tues. 12-5. 510-741-9165/www.schulerca.com

LIVERMORE

- 13 Ridgecrest**
From high \$300,000's. Grand Closeout! Great loc. designs to 2273 sq ft. 4 BR. 2.5 BA. nr. 580/ BART/ACE train. 580 to N. Livermore. left on Portola. Open 10-5, Mon. 2-5. 925-371-5648. www.richmondamerican.com

- 14 Vintage Collection**
From low \$600,000's. Scenic homes by Delco Bldrs. 1 1/2-1/2 ac. views of Livermore Valley/vineyards. Close to Ruby Hill Golf Course. top rated schools. Spacious floorplans. complete amenities. Open Thurs-Mon. 925-606-5505

PITTSBURG

- 15 Highlands Ranch**
From low \$200,000's. Beautifully designed 1134-2549 sq ft. 3-5BR. 2 1/2 car gar. opt. mstr. den. lots. media cabing system. Near shopping schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Loveland & Somersville. (925) 439-9070. Seeno homes. www.seenohomes.com

- 16 Monterra II, Summit Collection**
From mid \$200,000's. 4-6 BR w/options to 7. Three floorplans. 1815-4243 sq ft. 3 car gar. great opt. inc. second mstr. BR. den. mstr. retreats. Nr. hwy. walk to BART. Hwy 4 to Bailey Rd. sq. rt. on Leiland, left on Southwood. 925-709-1037. www.seenohomes.com

PLEASANT HILL

- 17 Grayson Woods**
From low \$500,000's. Up to \$15K allowances! View & Cul-de-sac. 283 car gar. opt. mstr. den. lots. media cabing system. Near shopping schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Loveland & Somersville. (925) 439-9070. Seeno homes. www.seenohomes.com

- 18 Village Square**
Mid \$300,000's to low \$400,000's. Single family homes by Delco Bldrs. 3-5BR. 2-3.5 BA. Private entry. landscaped common area. Close to PH BART. 680. 150 Hookston Rd. More info 925-952-4595

VACAVILLE

- 19 Brighton at Westgate**
From the \$190,000's. Beautifully designed 3 & 4 BR. Seeno homes, 4 floorplans. 1432-1843 sq ft. 2 car garage. convenient location 180 to Alamo Dr. to Peabody to Foxboro. 707-448-6243. www.seenohomes.com

- 20 Diamond Grove**
From mid \$160,000's. Gated active adult comm. Contemporary 1 story homes. Beautiful priv. rec. ctr. w/game rms. swimming & more! Open 11-6. 1-80 to Orange Dr. follow to Orange Tree Cir. 707-447-5800

- 21 Village Hills**
From mid \$200,000's. No Mello Roos! Beautiful Estate style, to 3312 sq ft. 3, 4 & 5 BR. 3 car garages. Easy access to hwy. shopping. Take Elmira exit off I-80. East to Beelard. 707-454-0162. www.seenohomes.com

VALLEJO

- 22 Crystal Pointe**
From the \$190,000's. FINAL PHASE! Hillside homes in established neighborhood w/ views of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1613 sq ft. 3 BR. 2 1/2 BA. Great commute loc. near I-80. Open Fri/Sun/Mon. www.richmondamerican.com. Richmond American Homes. 707-643-5486

WALNUT CREEK

- 23 Larkey Estates**
From \$494,900. PHASE I Pre-Model Sale. LCI Homes. creek estate lots. 4-BR. 2458-2600 sq ft. Larkey Ln./Geary Rd. 680/24/BART close NRS Brokers. 925-935-9132. Open Wed. thru Fri. 1-5. Sat/Sun 10-5

- 24 Laurel Glen**
Mid \$400,000's to mid \$500,000's. Delco Bldrs. Affordability & style in 3 spacious plans. Close to W.C. schools. 24 & 680 downtown Lafayette & W.C. Open Sat/Sun. 2569 Lucy Ln. 925-975-5205

- 25 Oak Creek & Shadow Brook Estates**
From \$229,900. Estate homes by Delco Bldrs. on 1 ac. lots against rolling hills/Mt. Diablo. Close to parks/schools. One of best loc. in East Bay. Best distinctive architecture, dramatic int. complete amenities. Open Sat/Sun. 3699 Oak Creek Ct. 925-256-9504

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All you really need to know about real estate.

Sell home quickly for top dollar — by the numbers

By Robert J. Bruss
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

If you're thinking about selling your home in January, you're probably a "motivated seller." That means you have a strong reason for selling during home sales' slowest time of year.

Whether a job transfer, family situation, retirement, illness or other reason motivates your home sale, you have an advantage because many "unmotivated" home sellers take their homes off the market during the holiday season. That's good for the remaining home sellers because it reduces competition.

However, the number of home buyers is at its lowest at this time of year. Primarily highly motivated home buyers, such as job transferees, are shopping for homes during

the holiday season. That's good for you if you know how to properly market your home. Here are four steps to help you sell your home quickly and for top dollar during this slow season:

1. Get your home in shape

Before telling even your best friend that you plan to sell your home, get it into tip-top condition. Weather permitting, paint the outside. If the inside looks the slightest bit dirty, paint it. A few hundred dollars spent on fresh paint often returns thousands of dollars in added market value. Your goal should be to get your residence into "model home" condition.

In addition to fresh paint, other extremely profitable improvements, which return more than their cost, include new light fixtures;

fresh floor coverings, such as new wall-to-wall carpets (a neutral light beige goes with any furniture), new linoleum, and resurfaced hardwood floors; and fresh landscaping (weather permitting).

2. Fix up the garage

Most home sellers overlook the important garage. Even if you have a one-car garage in an area where most home buyers want a two- or three-car garage, get your garage into sparkling condition.

Spending money on Sheetrocking the garage and painting it white will do wonders. Also, paint the concrete floor. Of course, get rid of any junk so you can actually park a car in the garage. Hold a garage sale or call the Salvation Army to haul away unwanted but useable items.

3. Interview at least three agent

Even if you think you can sell your home without a professional agent, interview at least three successful agents who sell homes in your vicinity. Ask friends, neighbors and business associates for recommendations. Also, check the newspaper ads for agents selling nearby homes. Attend their open houses to check competitive home listings.

Agents love to give their listing presentations because they know a certain percentage will result in listings. Each agent will give you invaluable information, such as a CMA (comparative market analysis) and suggestions to maximize your home sales price. The CMA should include each agent's opinion of your home's market value, based on recent sales prices of nearby, comparable homes.

Even if you decide to become a self seller, the best agents can probably phone them after they sell your home, so they enjoy getting the business. Since agents have the powerful Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to make you able to all member agents and they realize your home will go through the MLS by a member.

4. Obtain customary inspections and make necessary repairs

Before putting your home on the market, obtain the customary inspections in your area, such as for termites, radon, efficiency and building code. Agents you interview can explain inspection procedures.

WEEKLY HOME SALES

ALAMEDA

1816 Alameda Av - \$367,000
450 Cola Ballena #4 - \$340,000
3111 El Sereno - \$249,500
3120 La Campana - \$222,000
1231 Pearl St - \$285,000
628 Pond Isle - \$395,000
2526 San Jose Av - \$237,000
2810 San Jose Av - \$219,000
320 Sand Beach Rd - \$335,500

ALBANY

721 Adams St - \$110,000
535 Pierce St #2205 - \$222,000
1110 Pomona Av - \$116,000
1094 Tevin St - \$389,000

BERKELEY

1328 67th St - \$158,000
1267 Addison St - \$130,000
1415 Bancroft Wy - \$245,000
1714 Berkeley Wy - \$250,000
1623 Beverly Pl - \$460,000
2526 California St - \$239,000
1632 Cornell Av - \$407,000
70 Florida Av - \$360,000
65 Forest Ln - \$475,000
437 Kentucky Av - \$527,000
1642 Milvia St #2 - \$256,000
1566 Olympus Av - \$767,500
1300 Oxford St - \$435,000
809 San Carlos Av - \$461,000
26 Tunnel Rd - \$792,000
1431 Ward St - \$190,000

EL CERRITO

6602 Donal Av - \$248,000
6338 Lagunitas Av - \$329,000
1750 Liberty St #16 - \$219,000
800 Park Wy - \$265,000
5425 Rosalind Av - \$290,000
923 Shevlin Dr - \$395,000

EL SOBRANTE

715 Appian Wy - \$204,000
5060 Hilltop Dr - \$140,000

EMERYVILLE

8 Admiral Dr #335 - \$145,000
6363 Christie Av #405 - \$160,000

OAKLAND

1606 100th Av - \$133,000
1097 106th Av - \$142,000
1738 33rd Av - \$158,500
2401 35th Av - \$149,000
2134 42nd Av - \$171,000
366 61st St - \$432,000
2442 68th Av - \$131,000
1151 77th Av - \$79,000
1551 80th Av - \$142,000
1818 99th Av - \$135,000

303 Adams St #11 - \$155,000
841 Apgar St - \$150,000
3373 Arkansas St - \$117,000
4212 Balfour Av - \$425,000
1278 Bates Rd - \$299,000
3307 Bona St - \$180,000
13090 Brookpark Rd - \$430,000
5739 Cabot Dr - \$481,000
320 Caldecott Ln #433 - \$150,000
697 Calmar Av - \$705,500
6860 Chambers Dr - \$329,500
2002 Chestnut St - \$150,000
842 Cleveland St - \$323,000
6037 Contra Costa Rd - \$1,355,000
2103 Damuth St - \$304,000
2929 Delaware St - \$224,000
8081 Earl St - \$195,000
8101 Earl St - \$178,000
2211 East 19th St - \$85,500
1034 East 21st St - \$163,500
1308 East 27th St - \$129,000
1312 East 27th St - \$159,000
407 Elwood Av - \$355,000
5609 Fleming Av - \$179,000
5817 Florence Tr - \$475,000
3881 Forest Hill Av - \$310,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$219,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$395,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$249,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$294,444

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$110,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$389,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$116,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$209,250

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$130,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$792,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$360,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$384,531

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$219,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$395,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$265,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$291,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$140,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$204,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$172,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$145,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$160,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$152,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 65
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 75,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,355,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 177,500
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 258,400

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 330,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,100,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 333,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 615,750

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 40
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 78,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$495,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$152,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$182,763

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 25
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 87,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$297,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$210,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$208,700

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$138,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$224,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$147,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$178,750

3858 Fruitvale Av - \$25,000
316 Ghormley Av - \$40,000
1058 Glendora Av - \$41,000
2227 Harrington Av - \$165,000
3115 Herriott St - \$70,000
6255 Hilton St - \$85,000
555 Jean St #532 - \$157,500
1 Kelton Ct #2J - \$35,000
6170 Laird Av - \$20,000
2006 Leimert Bl - \$40,000
6630 MacArthur Bl #11 - \$75,000
3351 Madera Av - \$45,000
5345 Manila Av - \$45,000
6146 Mazuela Dr - \$70,000
2921 McKillop Rd - \$279,500
22 Moss Av #204 - \$152,000
377 Palm Av #105 - \$133,000
150 Pearl St #201 - \$89,000
7934 Phaeton Dr - \$91,000
2450 Rampart St - \$23,500
3040 Revere Av - \$31,000
3400 Richmond Bl - \$330,000
3763 Ruby St - \$150,000
9923 St. Elmo Dr - \$10,000
1019 Trestle Glen Rd - \$430,000
10115 Voltaire Av - \$189,500
4531 West St - \$82,500
3520 Willis Ct - \$28,000
7933 Winthrop St - \$177,500

PIEDMONT

1512 Grand Av - \$30,000
405 Linda Av - \$33,000
323 Ramona Av - \$70,000
148 Waldo Av - \$1,10,000

RICHMOND

452 38th St - \$136,000
533 4th St - \$107,500
784 Amador St - \$12,000
4705 Arno Ct - \$13,000
3085 Avon Ln - \$13,000
2110 Blackwood Dr - \$187,000
180 Bonnie Dr - \$12,000

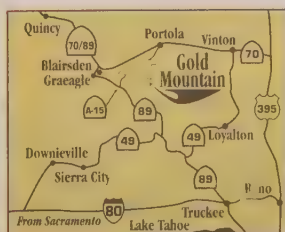
670 Carlson Dr - \$170,000
5170 Coast Dr - \$170,000
5511 Columbia - \$170,000
5352 Debra - \$170,000
3902 E. Morris - \$170,000
1929 Esplanade - \$170,000
2864 Flamingo - \$170,000
539 Golden Gate - \$170,000
743 Golden Gate - \$170,000
2003 Granite - \$170,000
4638 Hilltop Dr - \$170,000
640 Humboldt - \$170,000
2785 Joana - \$170,000
3958 La Colina - \$170,000
5410 Lenora - \$170,000
2957 May Rd - \$170,000
825 North - \$170,000
2935 Oxford - \$170,000
4906 Plaza - \$170,000
5120 Reno - \$170,000
4837 Reno - \$170,000
2200 Rhen - \$170,000
2836 Rolling - \$170,000
2642 Sherwin - \$170,000
425 South - \$170,000
3422 Stewart - \$170,000
3326 Tuna - \$170,000
2121 Via - \$170,000
3786 Via Verdi - \$170,000
303 Vista Heights - \$170,000
141 Westgate - \$170,000
4700 Whiteside - \$170,000
759 Wilson - \$170,000

This list was compiled from information in Hills Newspapers' theTech of Oakland which weekly records from the recorder's office. Neither guarantees accuracy nor completeness of the information. Prices are estimated based on applicable county data. Questions? Call 510-880-5368.

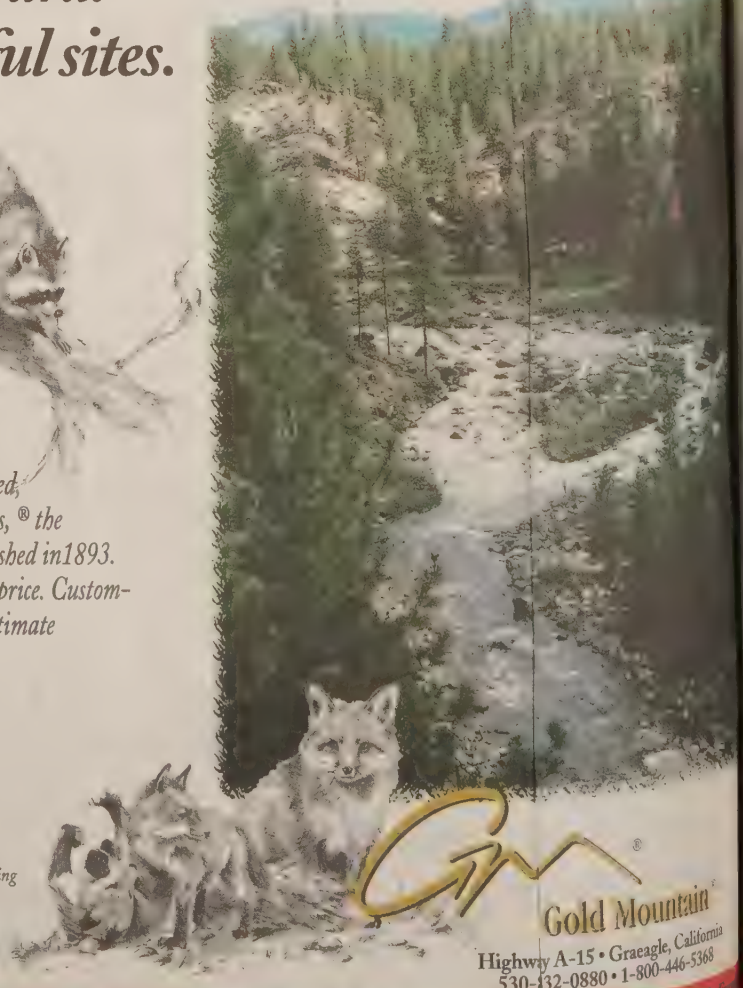
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FROM PAGE B1

traversed by two branches of Strawberry Creek, which trickled down gently from the Berkeley hills to the Bay. Today, the approximately two square mile main campus boasts several dozen structures, as well as beautifully landscaped meadows, woods, trails, footbridges and creeksides.

As the inscription on Founder's Rock above Gayley Road at Hearst shows, the decision to locate the future university at Berkeley was made in 1860. However, construction on the first campus building, South Hall, was not completed until 1873, the year Berkeley graduated its first class.

In 1865, the forerunners of the University Regents invited the great New York City landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to come to California to do a preliminary study for the new college grounds.

Although most of Olmsted's ideas for the arrangement of the buildings were never used, some aspects of his overall concept were incorporated into a UC campus master plan. Planners eventually applied Olmsted's suggestion to retain both branches of Strawberry Creek within their tree-shaded banks.

When the new university was chartered in 1868, David Farquharson was chosen as the first campus architect. His landscaping plan called for providing a sweeping, uninterrupted view of the Bay from the center of campus by orienting all the buildings on an east-west axis running down from the high ground around the site of Sather Tower, or "The Campanile."

Olmsted had suggested a similar plan during his 1865 visit, so some scholars refer to this east-west sight line as "Olmsted's Axis."

The regents accepted Farquharson's designs for the first six campus buildings. All but South Hall have been torn down since the early 1900s. South Hall is an elegant example of a French Second Empire style, Mansard-roofed public building. Its red brick, ivy-covered walls give it an air of venerable antiquity.

On the upper walls of the north and south facades of the building are a series of bas-relief panels depicting the various fruits, grains, and vegetables produced in California at that time. At the top of the rain spouts at each corner, just below the cornice line, are devil's head gargoyles that glare ominously at passersby.

A handful of other late Victorian

TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about the architectural styles of the previous two centuries, enroll in Mark Wilson's class, "Historic architecture of the East Bay" at Piedmont Adult School on Tuesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Call 510-594-2655 before January 10 to enroll.

structures were added to the UC Berkeley campus over the next generation, without any overriding architectural concept.

Then in 1897, Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, mother of newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, ran with architecture professor Bernard Maybeck's suggestion and sponsored a competition to develop an architectural master plan for the UC campus. Architects the world over submitted nearly 800 proposals during the next three years.

In 1902, New York architect John Galen Howard, who had placed fourth in the competition, was appointed the new university architect. His task was to interpret and revise the winning design by Emile Benard, a Frenchman who had won first place but declined to accept the position as UC Berkeley's university architect.

Howard revised the Benard plan several times, making it into virtually a plan of his own. He employed a restrained Beaux Arts neoclassic style for all of the main buildings, dressing them in white stone facing over metal framing with red clay tile roofs to create a visual unity.

Howard remained the university architect until 1927, during which time he designed such landmark structures as Sather Tower, Sather Gate, the University Library, the Greek Theater, and Hearst Mining Hall.

George Kelham became the second supervising architect for the UC Berkeley campus, from 1928 until 1936. Most of the later "streamlined moderne" neoclassic buildings on campus were built during his tenure, including the Life Sciences building and Harmon Gymnasium.

The final university architect, Arthur S. Brown Jr., designed Sproul Hall during his tenure, which lasted until 1948.

Since the 1950s, most new development on the UC Berkeley campus has been carried out in a "design by committee" fashion. To this unfortunate trend we owe such Concrete Brutalist monuments of modern architecture as Wurster Hall and Evans Hall.

People's Park

A scattering of small, one-block-square city parks dot the older sections of the East Bay's cities. People's Park in Berkeley's south campus neighborhood was a result of pressure brought to bear by the UC students on the Board of Regents. Though it therefore is not a city park, it is today being used as one by the students and homeless who live nearby. The park offers services that cater to this population, such as a large bin for donating used clothes, and a bulletin board with notices of medical and food assistance.

Civic Center

Berkeley's Civic Center is bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Center Street, Milvia Street and Allston Way. It was created in the early 1900s, when Berkeley decided to commission a new City Hall building facing what was then Grove Street, (now MLK Jr. Way). The City Hall was designed in 1908 by architects Bakewell and Brown, the same firm that was to design San Francisco's city hall a few years later. They used a Beaux Arts design with a soaring central spire that gave the building the air of a Renaissance town hall in France.

Franklin Park

Alameda's Franklin Park is one of the oldest urban parks in the East Bay. Bounded by Morton, San Jose, Paru, and San Antonio streets in Alameda's historic Gold Coast area, it was created in the 1880s when development of this residential district began. The Victorian and Edwardian Era homes that surround Franklin Park are set in their original lots, and give the park the charming character of a well-preserved nineteenth century Midwestern town.

The most noteworthy of the historic homes around Franklin Park include: 1004 Paru, a superb 1896 Colonial Revival house with an ornate Palladian window in front; 1018 Paru, an 1890 Stick-Eastlake house with curved, Moorish arches on its porch; 1602 San Antonio, a dignified, 1889 Stick Eastlake house with elegant details; 1421 San Antonio, an 1898 Colonial Revival home with finely-patterned, leaded windows; and 1001 Morton, an 1890 Queen Anne house with intricate saw-wood decoration and fancy stick-work paneling.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



History thrives in castle keep

By Joe Knowland

"The Castle," as upper Rockridge residents affectionately call it, has just come on the market for sale after being replicated in artistic detail from a 1928 design created by California's famous architect, Albert Farr.

Because of Farr's flair for theatrical design, the house has an ambience of grandeur that belies its 4,200 square feet. Farr specialized in compression and expansion of space to create artificial depth, such as designing short, narrow hallways that open into grand common rooms.

Entry into the home, via curved stairs and arched opening, is through the distinctive, signature, three-story tall turret, where well known restoration artist Manuel Palos crafted the pediments and windows. The grace-

ful, curved stairways, with pickets and wrought iron ornaments, include treads of quarter-sawn white oak, and handrail of mahogany.

Some of the more elegant features of the home at 6042 Manchester Dr. include leaded glass doors and windows by artist John Lenox, hand-painted ceilings, decorative rosettes and plaster moldings, and grand arched windows, all redesigned from original drawings and old photos.

Statues and carvings, as well as the sculptured gardens, fountains and landscaping were also recreated in exacting detail on this large, double lot, which provides also breath-

taking views of San Francisco Bay. "This house would certainly rank as one of the most challenging because of the level of craftsmanship, as well as artistry that was de-

manded," said Stewart of San Francisco's antique tractors, Plath and

The "Castle" was project, said its owner, Rosa Lane and Anna Berkeley. It means footsteps of Albert Farr, "from behind his eyes," and "learning how to chitectural rendering," and "building with a while we stand at the new millennium."

For more information, an appointment to see contact Dee and Joe Pacific Union Realty, age, 510-339-6400.

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Thank you for your continued support through our transition period. Our pledge to you for the new millennium is to strive to improve the quality of the Real Estate Section and to maintain the integrity of our community newspapers.

SPORTS

JV

Friday, December 31, 1999

Section C

Arts The Best and Worst in film and theater in 1999 [C3]

A last look at 1999 sports

One of the best years ever for local athletes

By Peter Mentor

Heroes and goats all meet the same fate when it comes to Father Time. Years pass, we all get older and both the great and bad times meld into one blurry memory.

Newspapers have two lives: They tell the news of the day and they capture that news for the future as yellowed clippings in the scrap books and on the walls of athletes, coaches and proud family members.

For those of you with short memories, or some of you who may have missed a chance to cut out your glory days from the newspaper during the past year, we have assembled a look back of the year of sports.

January

Best team ever? — We ponder if the El Cerrito boys hoops team could be the finest in school history. If you can't stand the suspense, jump ahead to March. Let's just say the Gauchos, led by Kansas-bound Andrew Gooden and a group of guys who were together since middle school, tore things up in January, including a televised win over perennial champion St. Joseph.

Warm and fuzzy Jackets — The Berkeley boys and girls hoops team have league title stamped on them as the season begins.



EL CERRITO STAR ANDREW GOODEN led the Gauchos to their best boys basketball season ever as the runner-up in the state Div. III finals.

By the end of the month Berkeley girls coach Gene Nakamura is unhappy after a 71-48 pasting of Amador Valley because the team wasn't playing at 100 percent.

A good loss? — El Cerrito girls soccer loses to Piedmont, 4-2, but the team takes it on a positive note. Most go scoreless against the Highlanders. The Lady Gauchos go on to win their next three matches and finish the month at 8-3 overall.

February

Near miss — Berkeley girls watch a 19-point lead dwindle to single digits before beating Amador by six points this time around. The Jackets stay unbeaten in league, but this is a wake-up call for the hoops playoffs. The return of star Coriel Davis has the team thinking state title.

Bench mark — Berkeley starters are late for the beginning of a game and the bench takes over with 45 points in a 74-52 win over Foothill in boys basketball.

Strong Will — Will Watkins hits for 20 points to stop San Ramon Valley as the Jacket boys go undefeated to take East Bay Athletic League hoops crown.

Gauchos surprise — El Cerrito storms to the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League boys hoops finals preparing to face St. Joseph, but De Anza upsets the Pilots in the other semifinal. The Gauchos then pound the Dons, 78-56, in the final. Jovan

Harris is the man, hitting 15 of his 19 points in the third quarter to clinch it.

Triple sweep — St. Mary's, El Cerrito and Albany boys soccer teams all bow out of league playoffs. The Panthers beat the Gauchos 1-0 to start off well, but they lose to eventual champion Richmond.

Tasty season, bad aftertaste — El Cerrito girls soccer is upset 4-3 by De Anza as the Lady Gauchos' 10-4-3 season has a bit-sweet finish.

March

Best yes, prize no — El Cerrito boys hoops did indeed have its best ever season as our sports story of the year winner. The Gauchos (31-4) win their league, the North Coast Section and the NorCal championship to reach the state finals. A 77-71 loss to Fresno at the Arco Arena didn't take away from a great accomplishment in the swan song of veteran coach Chris Huber. Andrew Gooden isn't pleased with "only 18 points and 19 rebounds" in the state finals.

Parade for Gooden — EC's Gooden joins Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan as a Parade All-American selection. The 6-10 center averaged 21 points during the season and displayed great passing and defense.

Association divisional finals, but the Jack-ets lose a close 7-6 match.

Triple miles — St. Mary's distance runner Bridget Duffy pulls off a rare triple by winning the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 at the league championship meet.

Highs and lows — St. Mary's beat St. Elizabeth 26-1 to tie De Anza for the best league baseball record at 10-1 in the AC-CAL, but the Panthers lose 9-6 to Alhambra in the NCS 2A quarterfinals.

Special K.K. — El Cerrito's Katrina Keith wins the 100 and 200 at the league meet, both times beating Holy Names High's Kelli Walker.

Domination — St. Mary's track team wins the league, the NCS subregional and NCS Meet of Champions crowns.

Simone and Spring — Berkeley's Simone Brooks beat St. Mary's Spring Harris in the 100-meter low hurdles for the NCS championship.

June

Good dream, bad dream — A dream season ends for St. Mary's track at the state track championships. High jumper Ebon Glenn was incredible at the trials where he cleared 6-7, but the junior forgot his jumping shoes for the finals where a borrowed pair didn't get him past the opening round.

The right height — Berkeley's Laura Winnacker was a surprise entry in the state meet high jump finals after she cleared 5-6 on her last attempt in the trials. She placed eighth in the state.

Hawks fly high — The El Cerrito Hawks win the Pony League baseball championship by scoring eight runs in the eighth inning for a 9-1 victory over the Tigers.

Which sport was that? — Albany quarterback Billy Zeier gets drafted by the Oakland A's in the 45th round of the baseball draft. Zeier goes on to play quarterback for Laney College in the fall.

Mighty Oaks — The Albany Oaks win the Junior League District 4 Tournament of Champions by averaging nearly 10 runs a game.

Optimistic finish — The El Cerrito Pony 14's win the Junior Optimist Baseball Tournament.

July

They've got the Blues — El Cerrito Blue, a Pony League 14-year-old team, loses a game 12-11 but everyone agrees it was one to remember. The game includes an inside-the-park homer, numerous runners thrown out at the plate, an ejection that leaves one team with only eight players, and extra innings to decide it all.

Running Roberts — El Cerrito High's Terrell Roberts runs for three touchdowns and intercepts a pass to lead Contra Costa to a 35-7 win over Alameda Country in the United Cerebral Palsy All-Star Football Classic.

No-No — David Chernicoff tosses his second no-hitter of the season as Albany beats Clayton Valley in the District 4 International Tournament.

August

World Serious — The Albany Oaks go 10-0 at the United States Amateur Baseball World Series by beating the Southern California Cannons in a comeback victory 5-4 in Midvale, Utah.

What a Blast — The Bay Oaks Blasters soccer team won the Dana Cup in Hjørring, Denmark, by outscoring their opponents 27-0.

Spilly stadium — Cal's Edward Stadium becomes a first-rate track and soccer facility in Northern California.

September

Half and Eddie — Eddie Smith goes 230 yards in the first half against Piedmont as St. Mary's leads 34-21. Smith scores from 56 and 78 yards, but suffers dehydration in the second half and the Panthers lose.

Onyike saves the day — Okoro Onyike scores with 38 seconds left to give El Cerrito a 58-52 win over De Anza. The two teams combine for 1,192 yards of offense and Gauchos finish month at 3-0.

Marathon match — El Cerrito girls volleyball wins a five-set match over St. Joseph by scoring 74 points to the pilots 59 over the span of games. The Lady Gauchos were up 2-0, but lost the next two 17-15 and 16-14 to force a fifth game.

A little of everything — Albany begins the football season at 1-1-1 after winning its first game, losing the second and tying the third.

October

Close call — El Cerrito football's undefeated season took a scare when a 22-7 lead turned into a 22-20 win over Piedmont. The Highlanders can't convert a 2-point conversion as the Gauchos move to 5-0.

Cougars romp — Albany volleyball moves to 21-4 after trouncing St. Mary's in league play.



ST. MARY'S High had an unbelievable ride in beating De Anza twice and undefeated El Cerrito to get to the NCS 2A football championship.

Berkeley explodes — The Yellowjackets gain their first victory of the season by scoring five touchdowns in the first quarter against Granada. Berkeley's Keith Stephens and Maurice Lee both return kick-offs 80 yards for touchdowns and the Jack-ets score three others off turnovers.

Mr. Smith runs roughshod — St. Mary's Eddie Smith does it again, going for four touchdowns in a 42-7 win over Albany.

Sad victory — Albany High beats Alameda 12-10 to match the number of victories the school has had in the past two years. The game is sad because running back William Bennett's father died the previous week.

Gauchos rule — El Cerrito stops St. Mary's 34-9 for a sixth consecutive win. The next week, the Gauchos would have five different players score in a 52-7 rout of Albany. Then comes a 51-3 pasting of Alameda for the eighth win as El Cerrito flirts with a perfect regular season.

Runaway winners — St. Mary's wins all three ACCAL girls cross country meets to win the league crown. Bridget Duffy leads the way, winning two meets.

Panthers edged out — The ACCAL boys cross country team comes down to a tie-breaker and Piedmont edges St. Mary's.

Smith out, George in — Eddie Smith is injured, but Trestin George goes for 258 yards and three touchdowns as St. Mary's whacks Kennedy 50-14.

Homecoming heroes — Berkeley football beats Monte Vista to give the home fans something to cheer about.

Deflation — The next week Berkeley football gets a go-ahead score by Reggie Johnson called back for a penalty and Foothill escapes with a 33-21 victory.

November

Eclipse of the bad moon — After years of struggling, the Albany High football team finally comes away on the plus side with a 4-4-1 season after beating Richmond 14-8 in the final game. The Cougars actually won a tie-breaker that doesn't count in the official record, but it sure counts in the minds of the players.

Perfect 10 — El Cerrito blasts Richmond 44-16 to go 10-0 during the regular season, the first time ever for head coach Frank Milo. The Gauchos get the No. 1 seed in the NCS 2A playoffs.

Unstoppable Cougars — Albany beats Albany to win a sixth straight league volleyball title. The Cougars land the top seed in the NCS Div. 4 playoffs, then win their third title in four years by beating Piedmont for the third time in one month.

Panther surprise — St. Mary's shocks De Anza with a 31-30 upset to get the final berth in the NCS 2A football playoffs. The

Panthers are seeded lower than the Dons and have to face undefeated El Cerrito.

Coronation of the queen — Bridget Duffy wins the ACCAL cross country championship at Crab Cove and St. Mary's is the undisputed girls champion of the league. The boys place second to Piedmont.

Wide left — Berkeley (2-6-1) has a shot at winning its final football game of the season, but a 32-yard field goal attempt missed in a 14-12 loss to California High.

Titelown — Bridget Duffy does it again by winning the North Coast Section Div. IV race and St. Mary's shocks the competition by winning the team cross country title to qualify for the state meet. Rudy Vasquez also qualified for state.

Stunner — El Cerrito's perfect season ends in defeat to local rival St. Mary's in a 13-6 loss in the first round of the NCS 2A football playoffs. Trestin George scores on a 49-yard run for a 7-0 lead with only 1:14 gone in the game.

Shocker — Beating a team twice in one season is hard enough. Doing it twice in two weeks, the second time in double overtime in the playoffs, is amazing. That's what St. Mary's did to De Anza to reach the NCS championship for the first time since 1991.

One step away — Albany volleyball came one win away from the state championship. The Cougars reached their highest point ever by making it to the NorCal Div. V title match by beating Christian Brothers of Sacramento in four sets in the semifinals. Albany lost a five-set match to Atherton in the NorCal finals. The 40-6 season was the best ever for Albany.

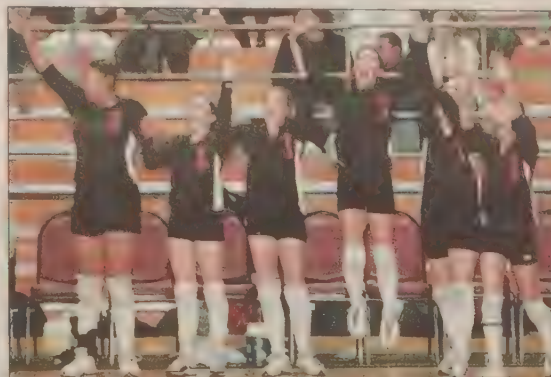
Duffy cruises — Bridget Duffy places second at the CIF State Meet and the Panthers cross country team placed eighth overall in Div. IV.

December

Wild ride ends — St. Mary's beat De Anza, El Cerrito and De Anza again to reach the NCS 2A football championship game. The Panthers long ride ended on a chilly night with a 27-8 loss to Foothill at Dublin High. Still, it was an unbelievable conclusion for an 8-5 team that nobody expected to even be in the playoffs.

Gooodoooooals — El Cerrito's Katie Eames scored 34 goals to begin the soccer season as the Lady Gauchos go into the new year in first place. EC coach Robert Sackey is hoping it doesn't go to his team's collective head, remembering back to the uncomfortable ending from the 1998-99 season.

Sign me up — Berkeley's Aisha Hollans and Erica McGlaston sign Div. I college scholarships before the basketball season. The Jackets can now focus on a return to the state Div. I championship.



ALBANY HIGH CELEBRATED its best season ever after reaching the NorCal Div. IV volleyball championship game.

Klinger named new chamber president

Michael Klinger, president of the Sunset View Cemetery Association, was the unanimous choice to serve as head of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce for the coming year.

Klinger, who will be installed on Jan. 28, will be starting his third term as head of the business group. He previously served as chamber president for consecutive terms in 1992 and 1993. He replaces outgoing President Bill Kerber, who is completing his third term in office.

Klinger started at the local cemetery in 1975, rose through the ranks and became president of the Sunset View Association in 1991. He joined the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce in 1985, and a few years later was elected to the business group's board of directors, where he has served ever since.

The new head of the chamber and his wife, Jeannie, are the parents of a son, Marcus, and a daughter, Monica.

Other officers elected to serve with Klinger during the year 2000 are: First Vice President Rena Bruton, manager of the Bank of the West; Second Vice President Janet Jolley, manager of El Cerrito Plaza; and Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Weaver, CPA.

All will officially take office at a specific installation and awards dinner to be held on Friday, Jan. 28, at Spanger's Fresh Fish Grotto in Berkeley.

Incumbents re-elected

All nine incumbents running for office have been re-elected to the chamber board of directors.

Those winning a new two-year term on the board included:

Charlie Weaver, CPA; Rena Burton, Bank of the West; Marsha Conwill, Tradeway Furniture; Sil Addiego, Lottators Real Estate; Michael Klinger, Sunset View Cemetery; Bea Doherty-Vincent, Doherty's Truck & Auto Rental; Marge Collins, Collins Property Management; Larry Seidel, Seidel Chevron; and John Olivero, Olivero Plumbing.

The newly re-elected directors will join the following chamber members, who will complete terms on the board at the end of 2000:

June Boblitt, Full Circle Travel; Wil Chun, Mail Boxes Etc.; Jack Freethy, El Cerrito Mill & Lumber; Janet Jolley, El Cerrito Plaza Co.; Bill Kerber, Freeway Motel; Harry Kiefer, Kiefer Furniture; Bill Morrow, The Mechanics Bank; and Larry Sanchez, Marvin Collins Construction.

The chamber would like to express its appreciation to Allan Essex and Bob Winslow for showing their interest in this organization by running for a seat on the board of directors.

Chamber opens 64th year with gala dinner

The El Cerrito Chamber will open a new year of activity with its 64th annual Installation and Awards Dinner on Friday, Jan. 28, at Spanger's Fish Grotto in Berkeley.

The event starts at 6:15 p.m. with a champagne reception hosted by incoming President Michael Klinger and his wife, Jeannie. Dinner follows at 7 p.m.

Serving as master of ceremonies and installing officer will be former El Cerrito mayor and former Chamber manager Ken Berndt, husband of chamber Secretary Pat Berndt. Guest speaker will be newly elected El Cerrito Mayor Mark Friedman, who will talk on "The Future of Business Here."

Following the installation of officers and directors, special awards will be presented to individuals and firms singled out for recognition for outstanding service to the chamber in 1999.

Cost for this event is \$19.50 per person. Diners will have their choice of pork loin, petrale sole or pasta primavera.

Those who want to attend must make reservations and indicate their menu choice by telephoning the chamber office at 233-7040 on or before Jan. 26.

Gifts galore at holiday party

The El Cerrito Chamber's final social event of 1999, the annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 17, drew a capacity crowd and everyone present won something in the gift giveaway.

A full house showed up at the El Cerrito-Albany Masonic Center to enjoy an attitude adjustment hour hosted by retiring President Bill Kerber, socialize and eat a delicious buffet lunch.

Every one of the lucky party-goers walked off with at least one of the 76 prizes donated by 56 local individuals and businesses for the opportunity drawing that highlighted the afternoon's festivities.

The chamber would like to acknowledge the large number of gifts

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Glinertnick



NEW PRESIDENT of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Michael Klinger will be officially installed on Jan. 28.

and thank the following generous donors:

Oakland A's, four reserved seat tickets; Little Ange's Restaurant & Tavern, nine bottles of imported wine; Olivero Plumbing, chrome shower head; Denny's, \$10 gift certificate; Dream World Flowers & Gifts, plant from Hawaii; Corinne Brennan, Candy Jar; Granter's Jewelry & Loan, lady's ring.

Kiefer Furniture, table lamp, magazine rack and mattress cover; Hacienda Restaurant, three combination dinners; Bank of the West, plush bear; Strings Italian Cafe, two \$25 gift certificates; Woulf & Ury Jewelers, silver-plated purse mirror; Unity, men's cologne and women's spray perfume.

El Cerrito Jewelers, silver necklace; Baskin Robbins, \$10 gift certificate; Longs Drugs, \$25 gift certificate; The Mechanics Bank, three bottles of wine; Music Works, \$25 merchandise order; Kit & Caboodle, \$25 merchandise order; Crafters Corner, two custom-built birdhouses; Atlas Liquors, bottle of wine.

PetVet/Petfood, cat treat jar; Nibs Restaurant, certificate for pie; Foley & Bonny, \$50 gift certificate; Pastime Hardware, \$25 gift certificate; Full Circle Travel, two nights hotel stay in Reno; Mel-O-Dee Lounge, bottle of Amaretto; McPhee's Jr. Bootery, three pairs of socks.

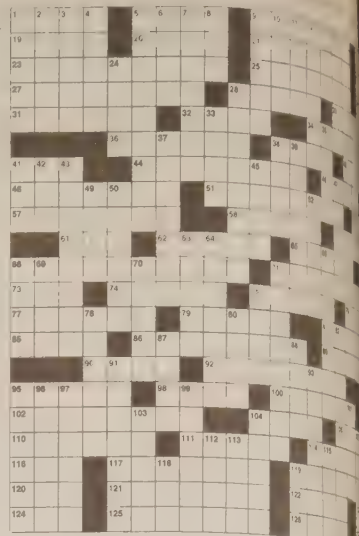
Plaza Beauty Supply & Salon, Redkin gift pack; Plaza Merchants, two boxes of candy; Mail Boxes Etc.,

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

WORDS HILLBILLY-STYLE

By GREG STAPLES / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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two \$25 gift certificates, Reem Pharmacy, wrist watch; Larry Parks Ltd., \$25 gift certificate; Betty's Hallmark, three \$50 gift packs; Conors Overhead Doors, free service call; El Cerrito Mill & Lumber, nail and tool bag.

Uncle Wong's Restaurant, dinner for two; El Cerrito Lighting, \$20 gift certificate; Marvin Collins Construction, picnic pack; Mary's Motors, \$25 service order; Tradeway Stores, decorative lamp; El Cerrito Florist, chrysanthemum plant; Avenue, teddy bear; Albertson's, two poinsettia plants.

McDonald's of El Cerrito, \$20 merchandise coupons; Bedazzled, \$10 gift certificate; All Star Donuts, merchandise order for two dozen donuts; Silver Screen Video, two video movies; General Nutrition Center, back massager; Fastserve Medical, holiday party pack; The Junket, tin of holiday cookies.

Barbara Brendlinger, painting; Seidel Chevron, collection of toy cars; Collins Property Management, two bottles of brandy; and Katana-Ya Ramen Restaurant, \$50 gift certificate.

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Arts

The year's best in film and theater

Ten that made movie-going worthwhile in '99, and 10 that didn't

By Karen Hershenson

Just when you thought you were done with lists, here comes another. Why we must end the 20th century by recounting the best of everything, from hand tools to dog breeds, is to borrow a line from "Shakespeare in Love," a mystery.

But I digress. This is the place where critics rack their brains and peer deep into their hearts to pull together a Top 10 List. It must be pernickety but populist. Rebellious but comfortable.

Ideally, it will embrace (in my case) the films that everybody loved. I omitted "L.A. Confidential" a couple of years ago and still hear about it. That same list included "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion," and

there were practically death threats on my voice mail.

Well, too bad. This is a very personal walk through the movies of 1999, a roundup of favorites. Some may wind up competing for best picture; others may languish in some arthouse with musty sofas. But these are the films that have stuck with me through all these months, the ones with permanent cubbyholes in my psyche.

I'm sure it was different for you. Please note that we've only considered films that have opened in the Bay Area, so worthy works such as "The Hurricane," "Topsy-Turvy" and "Girl, Interrupted" weren't in the running.

We're also including the most disappointing films, the ones for which expectations were high—because of subject, director or cast—but which didn't deliver. The ones that release you into the night, crestfallen. Angry. Movies like "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace."

See FILM, Page C2

Ten winners selected from a crowded field of contenders

By Pat Craig

There was plenty of drama in the past year's local theater season.

There was significant change—the closing of "Phantom of the Opera" after a record-breaking five years.

There was a touch of mystery—Would the eagerly awaited "Ragtime" ever come to the Bay Area? The first touring production ran out of cash and folded before a scheduled San Francisco visit (but a newer, trimmer version of the musical arrives here next year).

There was life after San Francisco—at least three shows, "The Wrong Mountain," "Dame Edna: The Royal Tour" and "Gum," have opened in New York.

There was a bit of controversy—August Wilson's play "Jitney" had its West Coast Premiere in San Francisco,

not Los Angeles, as the Mark Taper Forum would have you believe.

Most of all, though, there was some exciting theater on both sides of the Bay. ACT and Berkeley Rep had stunning seasons. The Willows Theatre and Center Rep continued to get stronger, and Danville's Role Players Ensemble completed one of its most artistically successful seasons ever.

Choosing the best is tough—what follows, in alphabetical order, was agonizingly pulled from a list of about 30 contenders, and represents the best and most memorable of nearly 150 plays reviewed this year.

The best:

1. "Beauty Queen of Leenane": Berkeley Rep was hot this year, and one of its finest is "Beauty Queen," currently playing at the theater. It is a taut, funny, frightening and sad tale of a dysfunctional Irish mother and daughter.

2. "Hillari and Soon-Yi Shop for Ties": Easily the year's best satire, the

See THEATER, Page C2

HOT SHEET!

■ The Dance Theatre of Harlem celebrates its 30th anniversary season with "The Four Temperaments," Feb. 8-12 at UC-Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Call Cal Performances at 510-642-9988.

■ Bill T. Jones performs his solo show "The Breathing Show," at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21, at UC-Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$18, \$24, \$32. Call 510-642-9988.

EVENTS



JAZZ VOCALIST Clairdee and her four-piece band will perform at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 17, at Yoshi's in Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. Call 510-238-9200.

Lawrence Hall of Science—"Balancing Acts: Providing for Today, Preserving for Tomorrow," runs through Jan. 17. Learn about sustainable technologies in agriculture, energy and manufacturing through real-life global success stories. Includes lots of hands-on activities.

"The Atoms Family," closes Jan. 9. Monster icons form old-time horror movies guide visitors through Gothic experiments that explore some basic scientific principles. The Phantom of the Opera introduces basic principals of matter, while Dracula offers lessons about light, and the Wolf Man's graveyard introduces energy and fuel sources.

"Dancing Physics: Original Prints on Art and Science," closes Jan. 9. An exhibit of original works of art by East Bay Artist Marilyn Snow. On display are prints and etchings that explore the relationship between art and science, including "Memory Traces," based on bubble chamber photographs taken at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab.

"1492: Two Worlds of Science," ongoing exhibit. Explore European and Native American science and technology at the time of Columbus's voyage, through activities with number systems, navigation tools, map making, computer games and a replica of the rocking deck of the Nina.

SPECIAL EVENTS—"Winter Holiday Family Science and Song Week," runs through Dec. 31. A full week of dazzling magic, fun music, storytelling and more.

Dec. 31, noon: "Millennium Project." Build your own end-of-the-century time capsule.

"Atoms Family" demonstrations: "The Howls and Whys of Energy," through Jan. 17. Daily demonstrations of energy and electricity concepts and devices. Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Free with admission.

FAMILY WORKSHOPS—Registration is required and each child must be accompanied by an adult. Call 510-642-5134.

ONGOING PROGRAMS—Free after museum admission. Macintosh Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Saturday and Sunday, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab, ongoing. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday and Sunday, 1:30-4 p.m.

HOLT PLANETARIUM—No knowledge of astronomy is required for these shows. Programs are recommended for ages 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted. Tickets: \$2 in addition to regular museum admission.

"Stonehenge," runs through Jan. 2. Investigate the possibility that these ancient ruins were used as an astronomical observatory 4,500 years ago. Runs Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

See EVENTS, Page C4

'Moon' shines

■ Carrey gives Oscar performance

By Karen Hershenson

The late comedian Andy Kaufman may seem like an odd choice for a big-screen biography. He sang the theme from "Mighty Mouse" and wrestled with women, leaving a legacy that flickers somewhere between insanity and genius.

It was only through his portrayal of Latke on the popular TV show "Taxi"—a role he almost turned down—that he even penetrated the mainstream consciousness. Otherwise, he operated on the fringes. A cult hero to some, he infuriated others with his self-absorbed, mind-messing routines. He was more performance artist than comic. King of the provocateurs.

If it weren't for the popular R.E.M. song keeping his memory alive, this movie probably wouldn't have happened. Front man Michael Stipe wrote the song "Man in the Moon" years ago as a tribute, and screenwriters Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski ("Ed Wood," "The People vs. Larry Flynt") knew from the beginning it had to be on the soundtrack.

MOVIE REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Man on the Moon"

■ STARRING: Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito, Courtney Love

■ RATING: R (language, brief sexuality, nudity)

■ RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 58 minutes

■ WHERE: At area theaters

■ GRADE: A-

Also instrumental was Kaufman's "Taxi" co-star Danny DeVito, who served as a producer on the film and portrays the comedian's agent, George Shapiro. Other regulars from the show, including Marilu Henner and Judd Hirsch, have cameos.

But from obscurity comes strange insight, as director Milos Forman ("Amadeus," "People vs. Larry Flynt") massages Kaufman's story—from his breakthrough years to his death from lung cancer at 35—into a fascinating look at a bona fide original and the courage it takes to remain true to your vision. What the movie illustrates is that brilliance doesn't

See MOON, Page C4



JIM CARREY portrays comedian Andy Kaufman in the film "Man in the Moon."



AL PACINO is a football coach in Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday."

'Sunday' isn't quite Oliver Stone's best

Even its gritty realism and strong performances can't get the latest football movie the extra point

By Chuck Barney

Early on in Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday," frantic third-stringer Willie "Steamin'" Beaman is pressed into duty after two quarterbacks for the Miami Sharks pull up lame. Having already puked all over his cleats, Beaman (Jamie Foxx) needs something or someone to quickly soothe his nerves.

Enter grizzled head coach Tony D'Amato (Al Pacino), who, shooting a priceless "do-I-know-you?" glance at the young understudy, instructs him to think back to his boyhood pickup games on the streets, where off-the-cuff plays consisted of nothing

MOVIE REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Any Given Sunday"

■ STARRING: Al Pacino, Cameron Diaz, Dennis Quaid, Jamie Foxx, James Woods

■ RATING: R (crude language and nudity)

■ RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 40 minutes

■ WHERE: At area theaters

■ GRADE: B

more than a quarterback prodding his receiver to "go to the Buick and turn around."

With that, Beaman charges onto

field and promptly fires a touchdown pass. Ah, only in Hollywood.

Despite its pat resolution, the scene is a poignant reminder that football, when pared down to its raw bones, should be a game of exuberance, simplicity and purity. Of course, Stone, who directed and co-wrote "Sunday," realizes the professional version is a thousand miles removed from the asphalt and the Buick.

And so he spends an overwhelming two hours and 40 minutes, nearly the length of a typical NFL game, splattering the screen with images of pro football's sad, demented truths: the egos, the money, the corruption, the pain and the violence.

Did we mention the violence? Stone tries hard to convince us the game we lightweights watch from our cozy La-Z-Boys is far more brutal than imaginable. With thunderous THX sound and flurries of tight, quick-moving closeups, he all but hurls his audience onto the field.

The result is "Platoon" without hand grenades. All the bone-crunching frenzy, head-whirling speed and chaotic intensity (if not the actual soreness) of the sport roar to life. As "Rocky" and "Raging Bull" did for Hollywood's previously lame depictions of boxing, "Sunday" elevates

See SUNDAY, Page C4

BILL MANN
Media Notes

Bests — and worsts of '99

Year-end lists, anyone? In this, our column of the year/decade/centennial/whatever, we turn to the year's best and worst. TV and radio bests and worsts. The Bay Area, 1999 was marked by the sale of the last locally owned broadcast property. KRON went for the highest price ever paid for a local TV station. Meanwhile, KTVU signed as a giant outlet, and Bay Area radio even ran a hard as that to imagine. Christmas came early when KGO-TV finally named its new anchor Terilyn Joe, who offered as much warmth as a picture of the Nixon family.

The other extreme: Channel 2's long-time news director, Fred Schuler, retired this year. He may have been the best-liked person in local broadcasting.

Here then, my (Y2K-compliant) bests and worsts in local TV and radio:

Best Local TV Newscast: Once again, KTVU's thoughtful and intelligent "10:00 News" is still the gold standard in local TV news. Channel 2 is about to add a 5 p.m. newscast, but you can't be as good as the acclaimed and highly rated Dennis Richardson/Leslie Griffith show?

Worst Newscast: KBWB's 10 p.m. newscast-like show. Close second: KPIX-TV's Channel 5 news.

Best Local Anchor: Brian Hackney. KRON Channel 4 weatherman Hackney has been doing some news anchoring of late. Hackney is bright and witty. He should have replaced KRON's lead forecaster, Steve "Hi, I'm Steve" Raleigh, years ago.

Worst Local TV Anchor: KPIX's news anchor Roberta Gonzales. Aside from her annoying in-your-face persona, Gonzales' constant "Hi, I'm Roberta" cheerleading seems a clear lack of interest, since her hubby is the NHL team's announcer. Dishonorable mention: KRON's feckless news anchor, who, although a pleasant and likeable enough TV personality, still blows more lines than any local newsreader. I counted 12 gaffes in KRON's 30-minute newscast this year.

Best Bay Area Radio Station: All-KCBS 740 AM. The 50,000-watt station, thanks to top-notch anchors and reporters like Al Hart, continues to set the standard for first-rate news and traffic coverage in an age of aging standards and vanishing ratings.

Worst Radio Station: "Wild 94.9," whose disgraceful morning team's lack of trade in things like Lose Your Virginity contests. Its high ratings are attributed by its low-mindedness.

Best Bay Area TV Reporters: Andy Shandobil, Bob MacKenzie, Tom Vacar, David Fowler, Lloyd Williams, Rita Williams (KTVU); Tony Gasman (KPIX); Greg Lyon, Joe Kline (KRON); Carolyn Tyler, Lois McKim (KGO).

Worst TV Reporter: Lianne Mendez (KGO). With her absurd glottal delivery and stony facade, Mendez looks like a caricature of every bad TV reporter. Close second: KRON's quavery-voiced Wallis Avilar.

Worst Radio Talk-Show Host: See below.

Disgrace to Bay Area Broadcasting: Once again, KSFO's loathsome afternoon-drive hateronger Michael Savage, whose list of latest egregious offenses against the common good and reputable broadcasting this year could fill several pages. Colleague Jim Eason charges that Savage is largely to blame for Eason's recent resignation. (For more on the Eason-Savage controversy, check my S.F. column last week at RadioDigest.com).

Wittiest Man in Local Radio: KSFO's bright and funny morning host, Lee Rodgers. If Lee would only drop the right-wing politics, his show would get the wider audience it deserves.

Funniest Local Media Quote of the Year: To the Hills reader who observed that Channel 7's anchor team of well-wished humanoids T. Joe and Dan "Noyes" is "proof that Disney does not integrate all its animatronic characters into theme parks."

One Down, One to Go: How long will KGO-TV boss Joe Aern continue to employ the creepy "White" Noyes? Faces Made for Radio: KGO Radio's guy Rich Walcott and traffic gal Leaver, who both look out of place and awkward on TV.

Where Do They FIND These People? Award: To KQED-TV, Channel 9's "This Week in Northern California," which must scour every free S.F. patch for panelists.

Most Intelligent Talk Show: Michael Krasny's "Forum," KQED-FM.

See MANN, Page C4

Sunday

FROM PAGE C3

football action to a new level of cinematic realism. It is both breathtaking and grotesque.

Stone also nails many other elements of the sport. The Shark's owner (Cameron Diaz) is a ruthless despot obsessed with higher profits (a younger, prettier Al Davis). The former first-string quarterback (Dennis Quaid), is an aging, pain-riddled star willing to trade body parts for one more shot at glory (think Steve Young). There's also a shady team doctor (James Woods) and a self-promoting running back (LL Cool J).

Toss in the media swirl, the issues of race, the temptations of drugs and sex, the locker-room shenanigans and a flood of appearances by former gridiron greats (Lawrence Taylor, Jim Brown, Johnny Unitas and Dick Butkus, to name a few) and you've got an authentic—if at times, caricatured—representation of the NFL.

All that vibrant attention to detail, however, only partially camouflages what ultimately is a rather pedestrian story. At its heart, "Sunday" is a basic morality tale that pits the old guard's values (D'Amato) against those of the new guard (Beaman).

The world-weary coach, whose job is in jeopardy, reveres the legendary

Vince Lombardi and everything he stood for: loyalty, discipline and teamwork. But the upstart quarterback sees guys like Lombardi as nothing more than ghosts. Caught up in his own intoxicating rise to stardom, Beaman shrugs off D'Amato's tired speeches and moldy concepts of tradition and honor.

The D'Amato character allows Pacino to be Pacino. There are moments when he gets to smolder and snarl and emote so hard that his eyes bug out. Then there are melancholy times when, caressing a drink or a hooker, he lets the raspy voice and dokey, handgaze take over.

Fox's provides an energizing contrast. Constantly flashing a smirky smile, he has the cockiness and the fine attitude—not to mention the finely cut pecs—to come across as totally believable.

Meanwhile, Diaz at first seems to be all wrong as the unsentimental, nononsense team boss. But she winds up making a powerful impression in a very different kind of role for her. Slashing her way through boardrooms and locker rooms, she's the fiercest Shark of 'em all.

In pro football, the maverick Stone has discovered a prism through which to view all he loves and hates about contemporary society. You can almost sense him yearning, along with D'Amato, for the simple days of leather hel-

met, real grass and manly camaraderie.

But while Stone's vision is largely fascinating, it also is bogged down by his trademark excessiveness. For one thing, "Sunday" is overstuffed with way too many personalities (Ann-Margret, Matthew Modine, Lauren Holly and others) and trivial subplots that strangle the piece. Even Stone appears as a yellow-jacketed, cliché-spewing TV broadcaster.

Then Stone the director has to go get overly mythical and metaphorical on us. In some action scenes, lightning strikes and thunder booms to the beat of heavy mood music (shades of "The Natural"). And in viewing football players as modern-day gladiators, he splices old clips of "Ben-Hur" chariot races into several scenes until they become ponderous and overbearing. (Charlton Heston later appears as the dour-faced league commissioner).

Surprisingly, Stone provides very little of his unorthodox style into the waning moments of the film, when it is needed most. The plot threads are mostly tied up in trite and simple ways. Then, like any conventional sport film, the big game comes down to—what else?—a heroic, last-second play!

The Gipper certainly would be proud, but from Stone, we expect something more.

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

Most Entertaining Radio Talk Show: Ronn Owens, KGO.

Most Infuriating Talk Host: Bernie "The Badgerer" Ward, KGO.

Corporate Greed Award (Broadcast Division): To Pennsylvania-based Susquehanna Broadcasting, for cramming 24 minutes an hour of commercials onto KNBR's morning show.

TV-Radio Cash Cow: The flood of dotcom ads this year that have raised prices for all commercials. Top-rated KGO Radio now gets \$4,000 for a 30-second spot in morning drive, a record.

Congratulations Are in Order: To KGO Radio, for winning the prestigious Marconi Award as Best Major-Market Radio Station nationally.

Best TV Feature Reporter/Writer: KTVU's stylish MacKenzie. Not even close. KGO-TV's Wayne Freedman may win more awards, but our local Emmies are judged in cities like Seattle and Honolulu—the same folks who, ludicrously, annually give KPX the Best Newscast award.

Best Pipes: Ed "Big Screen" Baxter, KGO

Worst Development in Radio: "Yadda Yadda Radio," the old KYCY-AM at 1550 AM, is now a dumping ground for Westwood One syndicated junk (G. Gordon Liddy, Tom Leykis) no one else here will carry.

Desperation-Plus: To failing S.F. country station KYCY-FM, which in November "reunited" morning man Dean Goss with his old "Goss and Garrett" morning partner from KFRC, "Garrett." Trouble is, this new one was a different "Garrett." Patti—and her real name isn't Garrett.

Vegetarians at the Gate: Our award for most ludicrously overblown story in local media in 1999, hands down: The KPFA controversy, a tempest in a very small teapot. The Berkeley leftist station's ratings are minuscule—but (some of) its listeners are loud.

Second-Best Local Media Development in 1999: (After Joe's being jettisoned at Channel 7) KPX finally getting rid of inept sports anchor/failed comic Drew Soicher.

Highest Salary-to-Talent Ratio: KFRC morning co-anchor Cammy Blackstone.

Finally this year, as a community service, here are some helpful tips for making sure you're Y2K compliant.

Here are some commonly cited tips:

1. "Will the calculator power properly over at midnight?"
2. "What about the TV?"
3. "What about the car?"
4. "Will the car start?"
5. "Will the car stop?"
6. "Will the car start?"
7. "Will the car stop?"
8. "Will the car start?"
9. "Will the car stop?"
10. "Will the car start?"

using an ATM? ... World countries are ... Switch over your ... power to DC. An AC ... a good start. Happy ...

Theater

FROM PAGE C3

Magic Theatre world premiere of Michelle Carter's comedy was one of the season's highlights.

3. **"Inherit the Wind":** This drama about the 1920s Scopes "Monkey Trial" in Tennessee was a highlight of an incredibly well-produced season at Concord's Willows Theatre.

4. **"Magic Fire":** Lillian Garrett-Grogg's partly autobiographical memory play about an unusual Argentinean family, functioning at the time of the Perons, was beautifully done by Berkeley Rep, and offered audiences a sort of anti-"Evita."

5. **"The Man Who Came to Dinner":** Classic Kaufman and Hart, presented elegantly by Walnut Creek's Center Rep in a laugh-filled evening.

6. **"Of Thee We Sing":** This original revue of music by the Gershwins from Town Hall Theatre created a tuneful, sophisticated tribute to America's greatest musical brothers.

7. **"Sylvia":** The A.R. Gurney comedy has been done before and since, but the production by Danville's Role Players Ensemble was one of the finest plays by any company, anywhere.

8. **"Threepenny Opera":** ACT's star-spangled tribute to Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill was a treat for anyone who got to see Bebe Neuwirth and company pay homage to Mack the

Knife.

9. **"The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman Versus Mammy Louise and Saffreeta Mae":** Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's production of this tough, funny play on ethnic identity gave audiences a powerful night of theater, and a strong showcase for Peter Macon, who quick-changed his way through several roles.

10. **"Trust":** Gary Mitchell made his American debut with the production of "Trust" at the Eureka Theatre. A sharp, anguished voice from Northern Ireland, Mitchell's show was a powerful and memorable piece of theater.

The worst:

On the other side, there were shows that for one reason or another didn't work.

1. **"A Flea in Her Ear":** Berkeley's Aurora Theatre, nearly legendary for jewel-bright close-up theater, couldn't quite make this French farce work. The production came off a bit slow and tired.

2. **"Cabaret":** The reimagined version of the Kander and Ebb musical is a strong and gutsy presentation of German lowlife on the eve of World War II. But casting the perky Joely Fisher as Sally Bowles in the Best of Broadway production was a mistake. In brief, she would never be used as a synonym for gritty.

3. **"Fame":** Some good singing and

dancing and a cast of wonderfully talented performers couldn't save this musical, which moved quickly through Cupertino's Flint Center from a thoroughly awful book.

4. **"Gum":** Its heart was in the right place, but the politics of this Magic Theatre offering were so knee-jerk, the show just didn't work. The term "ham-handed" came quickly to mind.

5. **"Getting-A-Head":** Even as fingers were busily typing a scathing review of this Yury Belov show, the Eureka Theatre was on the phone saying the show had been closed. It was the shortest run of the year, this Russian clown show, and also the most confusing.

6. **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat":** There was nothing wrong with this traveling show that hit San Francisco's Orpheum Theatre in November. It's just that there was no need for it, and just weeks before, it had been done much better by Contra Costa Musical Theatre.

7. **"Let My Enemy Live Long":** Here's a case of being picked when not quite ripe. There was a lot of potential to this one-woman show, seen both by audiences and Berkeley Repertory Theatre, which will present a new production in 2000.

8. **"Quatermaine's Terms":** Just a bad choice of material by Center Rep.

9. **"South Pacific":** It was a workmanlike show, but certainly no enchanted evening in San Jose.

Events

FROM PAGE C3

"Native American Astronomy," Jan. 8-Jan. 30. Observe moon cycles and changes in the sunrise and sunset positions on the horizon to see how these practices help Native Americans stay in tune with the harmonies of nature. Saturday and Sunday, 1-2:15 p.m.

"Constellations Tonight," ongoing. Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. Saturday and Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

"Saturday Night Stargazing," ongoing. See the moon, planets, star clusters and galaxies through astro-

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Moon

FROM PAGE C3

come from being safe, it comes from refusing to play by the rules.

Whether Kaufman was indeed brilliant or merely eccentric remains in question, and I wonder whether moviegoing America will embrace a film about such a quirky talent.

The movie works so well because of Jim Carrey, who morphs completely into Kaufman, with his disquieting, goggle-eyed stare and dead-on impersonations of Elvis and conga-playing kooks. Buried in makeup, he becomes the comedian's obnoxious alter-ego, lounge singer Tony Clifton. It's a brave and fully realized performance, and if Carrey gets shafted again at Oscar time—as he did with "The Truman Show"—it will be a

travesty.

There have been gripes the film doesn't dig deep enough to uncover what made Kaufman tick. But that's the very point: Here was a man so wrapped up in his own subconscious, operating so utterly outside the norm, that his outward persona was impos-

sible to read. I recently interviewed comedian Robin Williams, who said even though he had met Kaufman several times, even appeared in his famous Carnegie Hall blowout, they had just one serious conversation.

In the movie, Shapiro finally confronts his confounding client: "Who are you trying to entertain, the audience or yourself?"

Sometimes they hated him, like when he tortured a college crowd by reading the entire length of "The Great Gatsby," or when he appeared in Vegas as the slack-jawed Clifton, in-

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Film

FROM PAGE C3

But let's start on a high note, with the winners.

1. **"American Beauty":** This exquisitely told tale of suburban angst scratches at the essence of contemporary life. The filmmaking debut of theater director Sam Mendes, it seethes with irony, while celebrating quiet corners of beauty. The entire cast is remarkable, from Kevin Spacey as the alienated 40-something protagonist to Annette Bening as his real estate-selling Stepford wife. Just as good are the young, lesser-known actors: Thora Birch, Mena Suvari and especially Wes Bentley.

2. **"Being John Malkovich":** As movies become more formulaic, true originals become more precious, and this one gets the tiara. Funny, absurd, fascinating and silly, it celebrates the forgotten art of puppetry, and puts the foppish preening of actor John Malkovich at center stage. Track the career of first-time director Spike Jonze ... he is the future.

3. **"Election":** Set in a Midwestern high school, this acidic satire is about friction between a student-body go-getter (Reese Witherspoon) and the adult adviser (Matthew Broderick) who secretly despises her. When he encourages a popular athlete to challenge her run for school president, all the worms buried in the democratic process wiggle forth.

4. **"Eyes Wide Shut":** Here's the controversial pick, the one that will draw poisonous e-mail from readers convinced that Stanley Kubrick is a misogynist hack. I say, bring it on. As densely woven as a Flemish tapestry, it's a rumination not only on fidelity and the power of fantasy, but also on how a single experience can send your world spinning out of control. The performances by Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman have a vulnerability that comes from complete trust in the director's vision.

5. **"American Movie":** This documentary introduces Mark Borchardt, a Menominee Falls, Wis., visionary trying to bring his "Texas Chainsaw Massacre"-inspired movie, "Coven," to the screen. He enlists a reclusive-but-loaded uncle as producer, and begs his mom to be an extra. It's an hilarious, poignant and ultimately inspiring story about having the courage to pursue a dream.

6. **"The Talented Mr. Ripley":** This delicious thriller evokes Hitchcock, with its impeccable '50s stylings and Gwyneth Paltrow doing Grace Kelly. Matt Damon plays against type, and director Anthony Minghella ("The English Patient") brings an irresistible glow to the lifestyles of the rich and spoiled living in Italy.

7. **"The Sixth Sense":** Great movies have great screenplays, few more inspired than this eerie thriller about a little boy who communicates with the dead. Bruce Willis is thankfully understated, and newcomer Haley Joel Osment deserves an Oscar nomination for his chilling portrayal of this tortured boy.

8. **"The Insider":** Powerhouse performances by Al Pacino and Russell Crowe anchor this compelling look at big-league journalism. Based on an actual "60 Minutes" imbroglio over a segment on a tobacco-industry whistleblower, it crackles with realism. But with Michael Mann's bold direction, it becomes almost operatic: two men propelled to do something courageous.

9. **"eXistenZ":** David Cronenberg's movies occur in some alternate reality, outside the hum of daily life. This sci-fi thriller, set in some nameless, timeless zone, stars Jennifer Jason Leigh as the designer of a virtual-reality game that plugs directly into the central nervous system. Sensual and disturbing, it is as much a physical experience as a visual one.

10. **"The Straight Story":** From David Lynch, creator of "Eraserhead" and "Blue Velvet," comes this wholesome, G-rated Disney release. Richard Farnsworth is impeccably cast as the codger with bad hips, who rides his lawnmower from Iowa to Wisconsin to visit his estranged brother. Viewers are forced to slow down to his one-with-the-universe pace, and to take in the vibrant landscape, framed by a bluegrass-inspired score.

10a) Honorable mentions: "Toy Story 2," "Run Lola Run," "Man on the Moon" and "Go."

And now for the bad news: the most disappointing movies of the year.

1. **"Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace":** After enough hype to fill a galaxy, we got this rambling, self-important epic, with some cool special effects, but stars who look lost in the ozone and Natalie Portman done up like an overstuffed Kabuki doll.

2. **"Wild Wild West":** A pleasant TV show turned into a soulless, macabre feature, with hostile chemistry between stars Kevin Kline and Will Smith, and Kenneth Branagh as a bitter, paraplegic villain. Did I mention the projector made from a human head?

3. **"Bringing Out the Dead":** Martin Scorsese returns to the streets of New York and we're all supposed to swoon. Well, fuggedaboutit. This dreary tale about a depressed ambulance driver and his maniacal cohorts is beyond monotonous — it's relentless.

4. **"True Crime":** Even though part of it was filmed at my very own newspaper, I chucked throughout this Clint Eastwood vehicle, based on a best seller. Not only did he direct, he starred, treating us to a prolonged close-up of his 68-year-old chest.

5. **"Random Hearts":** One critic described Harrison Ford's haircut as resembling a Chia Pet, paired with a rigid Kristin Scott Thomas. Helmed by Sydney Pollack ("Tootsie"), "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?," the dialogue sounds like Scriptspeak, made more ponderous by a blaring jazz score.

6. **"In Dreams":** Gifted director Neil Jordan embarrasses himself with this botched horror movie that is oddly fixated on apples, with campy performances from Annette Bening and Robert Downey Jr.

7. **"8mm":** A graphic little romp through the seamy world of hardcore porn, with Nicolas Cage continuing his worrisome career spiral. Directed by Joel Schumacher, it manages to be both sensationalistic and boring.

8. **"At First Sight":** Val Kilmer is a happy-go-lucky blind masseur, and Mira Sorvino a client who smells like a coffeecake in this sappy Oliver Sacks-inspired romance that insults the intelligence of all who see it.

9. **"Pokémon: The First Movie":** Haven't we had enough of these little pocket monsters with a lock on the hearts and minds of America's youth? The feature was nothing more than a glorified cartoon meant to cash in further.

10. **"Love Stinks":** Actually, this was the worst movie of the year, but because nobody has heard of the director or stars, it doesn't matter. Bimbo women, idiot men—even cat torture.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Admission to the Community Calendar is free. The calendar is published on Thursdays one week before the event. Listings are on a space-available basis.

CLASSES

Vista Community College, 2020 Milpitas St., Spring 2000 enrollment for Program for Adult College Education (PACE) opens through Friday, Jan. 28. PACE is a college alternative for adults with job and family responsibilities. The program allows completion of freshman and sophomore years in 2-1/2 to three years, then transfer to a four-year college to complete the bachelor's degree. Call 841-1000 for information about how to enroll.

Lahrhaus Judaica at the Reuther Center, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, offers more than 100 classes on Judaism: Hebrew, Bible History, Culture, Prayer, starting in February through out the Bay Area. Call Lahrhaus Judaica at 845-6420 for a free catalog.

van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

Writing Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. Scribble Time, a class taught by Anne Levine, has helped people to understand themselves better and to find their focus. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

CapWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake Street near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 848-0425 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for

Patrick, John or Sage

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public including a variety of workshops held Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m. For additional information call 848-6370.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalaranjai Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi qung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate, four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Children

The La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., present ZunZun performing songs in Spanish from all over Latin America on Saturday, Jan. 8. All programs begin at 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$4 adults, \$3 children (\$10 max per family.) Call 849-2568 for additional information.

The Buddy Club Children's Shows begins the new Millennium on Sunday, Jan. 9, 11 a.m. to noon, at the Albany Community Center Theater, 1249 Marin Ave. with Hilarious Jay the juggler. Jay drops everything as he tries to balance fake knives, bowling balls, audience members and even rubber chickens, all while riding a 6-foot unicycle. Tickets, \$7, under 2 free. For tickets, birthday party reservations, and show information, call The Buddy Club at 652-7469.

Kids and their adult companions can explore the University of California Botanical Garden with Docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. You will visit a section of the Garden that represents a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there, and then draw what you see. Call 643-2755 to reserve your space.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness,

yoga, martial arts and more, University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370, \$8-\$10.

Community

The Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS) is open New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Enjoy featured exhibits, biology and computer labs, and The Holt Planetarium. The LHS is open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Museum admission is free for members, \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 7-18. LHS is located above the UC-Berkeley campus, on Centennial Drive. For information call 642-5132.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film

Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Body Wisdom, Inc. presents "One One Oh-Oh," an evening of fun and celebration on Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way. This is a concert for the first day of the millennium. Suggested donation: \$10, \$7 students and seniors.

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, presents a Millennium Party with music and song by the Toru Saito and Band. Refreshments will be served at 1:15 p.m. For additional information call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin Avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? Call Katherine at 525-5231.

See CALENDAR, Page C7

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January 11
2000

7:00PM to
9:00PM

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This special feature pays tribute to the movers and shakers in the East Bay. Whether you have started your own business, sold over a million dollars of real estate or have been a leader in our local community, this section salutes top business professionals through photo profiles.

DEADLINE:

Friday, January 21, 2000
at 1 p.m.

FORMAT:

Approximately
125-150 words accompanied by a photo

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Rasul Ghulam is not only in the business of buying and selling rare Oriental Rugs, he also specializes in the restoration and repair of antique rugs. He has been practicing this unique trade and art for almost 30 years and spent 15 years in Europe, especially Germany & Switzerland designing and repairing antique rugs strictly with vegetable dye yarn. This art is almost extinct, however, Rasul was brought up in the rug business and his family is still in the business of handmade rugs made to order to size, color & design. Rasul offers a large variety of rugs in his store at reasonable, negotiable prices. Due to his knowledge and background, he



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Calendar

PAGE C5

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 ...at 11 a.m. at 700 Heinz...
 ...for additional info...

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 ...Berkeley, 2600 Bancroft Way, from Jan...
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Scott's Seafood Restaurant

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Sushi House
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The Auto Section

The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

December 31, 1999

Section D

Motor News California cracks down on diesel fuel emissions [D2]

New Models Dodge sticks to solid basics with 2000 Quad Cab [D4]

Auto Doc Junior Damato knows what ails you — or your wheels [D4]

2000 Mitsubishi Mirage a solid performer

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

Mitsubishi says, "Wake up and drive." This week, I've been driving their 2000 Mirage coupe and the slogan fits this little car perfectly.

The Mirage isn't what it seems to be. It has a sporty appearance plus a sharp-looking spoiler on the rear deck giving it the illusion that it's capable of zooming from zero to 60 mph in two seconds flat. Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration, but you get the picture. This little coupe looks like a genuine sports car with its low slung aggressive front end, distinctive taillights and a rakish rear deck. But looks can be deceptive — which is what a mirage is all about.

Under the hood is a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine producing very modest performance. Its real claim to fame is fuel economy: 28 city, 36 highway. To expect great acceleration from the 113 horsepower engine would be foolhardy. And my tester was the LS model, the car with the "big" engine. The DE model has 1.5-liter, 92 horsepower engine.

However, this is not to suggest the Mirage is sluggish; it isn't. By simply shifting gears downward, the car was a pleasure to drive, especially because the manual transmissions seemed to float from gear to gear. An automatic transmission is an option.

See MIRAGE, Page D4



THIS LITTLE COUPE looks like a genuine sports car with its low-slung aggressive front end, distinctive taillights and a rakish rear deck. But looks can deceive — that's what a mirage is all about.

Drive, She Said



By Denise McCluggage

"Your tires need to devote total attention to slowing and then total attention to turning."

Brakes only one element in emergency

Your brake is not your friend. There now, don't take it so hard. You have other friends. And even your brakes can be affable if you call upon them only at the right time and don't ask them to break the law. The law of physics, that is.

Noting the deviousness of your brakes is particularly apt on wintry days when slippery road surfaces are common. In the north, snow and ice are winter's favored thieves of traction. In moderate climates, drivers may deal with wet leaves, blown sand and rain, all capable of altering a tire's bite on the road with scary results.

Arguably, the braking system is the

See DENISE, Page D2

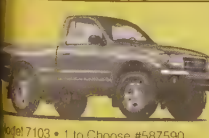


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By Michelle Krebs

wireless headphones allow passengers to have separate channels to play a game, video or listen to a CD while other passengers listen to the vehicle's system. The system costs an additional \$150 dealer fee.

"MontanaVision," as it is called, is available only on the extended.

Instead of folding down from the ceiling, the screen is located in the back of the console unit that also

Auto industry experts predict entertainment and what they call "infotainment" will be a booming area in the future as more entertainment systems are installed into vehicles. Concept cars at auto shows of late indicate video screens may be installed in the back of seats, like on some airplanes. Video screens for the driver likely will show real-time traffic reports of their routes.

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By Christopher Keane

At the top of the mini-SUVs are the Suzuki Vitara, and its identical twin, Tracker. With zippy 1.6-liter I-4 engines and manual transmissions, Vitara and

Sporting 165-horses from a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, the Forester jumps off the line and handles city streets with nimble agility. Forester lacks a low range transfer case for serious hill climbing.

The Lexus RX300, however, leaves no

Mileage estimates among full-size SUVs are typically of minimal importance. These big boys are bought for size and power. Passenger loading, cargo handling, and towing capacity are everything – gas is an afterthought. However, for those who wish to give

Fuel efficiency and four-wheel drive vehicles are not incompatible ideas. It's time to consider MPGs when buying SUVs.

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2000

It's to your advantage

— Hills Newspapers

Four doors, V8 muscle anchor Dakota Quad Cab

Truck Talk

By Tim Spell

Dodge says its 2000 Dakota Quad Cab is a synthesis of its Dakota pickup and Durango sport-ute. The Quad Cab is so versatile it can be classified as a pickup or sport utility, and easily fit in the new sport-utility-truck class.

As this is the same company that once referred to the Dakota as an "intermediate-sized" pickup, then later switched to "compact," sticking to the basics may be the best way to interpret the all-new four-door Dakota.

What I see is a crew cab pickup — an overdue configuration that'll zap a big chunk of the personal-use target market dead center. Giving Dodge the benefit of the doubt that Dakota is a compact means the company has even more to brag about, especially in terms of the biggest four-door cab and most formidable powerplants.

Dakota Quad Cabs have starting prices of \$19,490 for the 4x2 Sport and \$22,135 for the 4x4 Sport, but with the list of enticing extras offered, odds are those figures will run higher for most.

While "crew cab" may conjure visions of a pickup toting workers donned in hard hats off to a construction site, the Quad Cab was created to handle that duty and much more.

"This is not a single-purpose vehicle," says Michael Gialdini, senior manager/Dodge Truck Marketing Plans. "It offers people the chance to express their individuality."

Dakota's regular cab is "for me," the Club Cab "for me and my stuff or pet," and the Quad Cab "for me, my stuff, my family, my friends and my messy stuff," observes Gialdini. He notes that the Quad Cab appeals to sport-ute owners who haul messy cargo, but don't like tossing it into a carpeted cargo area.

Clean stuff, as well as family and friends, ride in style in the generous-sized cab. Its full-size rear doors, bor-

rowed from Durango, are hinged in normal fashion and fitted with conventional roll-up windows.

These doors open 84 degrees and feature an intermediate stop when a narrow opening is desired in tight parking lot situations.

The cab's adult-friendly rear compartment is fitted with a three-place 60/40 split-bench seat, with cushions that can be folded separately against the seatback when cargo hauling is priority.

Folding each cushion is a one-hand operation requiring no levers or latches. Rear seating is on the firm side, and comfort is boosted with seatbacks that recline slightly.

Teaming with the standard 40/20/40 front bench, the Quad Cab seats six adults. Front buckets that flank a fixed floor console are an option for those willing to trade away a passenger for an extra dash of sportiness.

The functionality of a cab, stretched 15 inches beyond the Club Cab, comes at the sacrifice of bed length. Instead of the standard 6.5-footer, the Quad Cab bed shrinks to 5 feet, 3 inches. "The whole idea was: Will it fit in the garage?" Gialdini proffers. "A 5-foot-3-inch bed, 215-inch overall length, fits in the garage, it's very maneuverable, plus it looks sporty."

Quad Cabs also boast the credentials to haul 1,450-pound maximum payloads and tow up to 6,350 pounds. Big players in making this grunt possible are a pair of Magnum V8s — distinguished as the only V8s in the compact pickup segment.

Replacing the 5.2-liter V8 is a new-generation 4.7-liter V8 that first appeared in the 1999 Grand Chero-



DAKOTA QUAD CABS have starting prices of \$19,490 for the 4x2 Sport and \$22,135 for the 4x4 Sport. An enticing menu of extras will run higher for most.

kee. The 4.7-liter delivers 235 horsepower and 295 foot-pounds of torque — enough beef to tow up to 6,100 pounds. Base power comes in the form of a 3.9-liter V6.

Holding its own against competitive V6s, the 3.9-liter delivers 175 horsepower and 225 foot-pounds of torque. Towing capacity is 4,900 pounds.

Along with offering a selection of

powerplants, a variety of transmissions is offered. The V6 can be linked with a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic, the 5.9-liter with a heavy-duty four-speed automatic, and the 4.7-liter with a five-speed manual (a hot pairing) or new-generation multi-speed automatic transmission.

Highlighting this multi-speed transmission technology are alternate second-gear ratios. Two second

gears, 1:67:1 and 1:50:1, which kick in with varying speeds and throttle positions, allow for smoother downshifts at higher speeds. The transmission's refined shifting complements the smoother operating 4.7-liter, resulting in reduced noise and vibration.

A quiet interior and a compliant ride — even on 4WD models — are a result of Dodge's mission to move

toward a passenger experience. Adding a sized rear door, easing Dakota's sedan state-of-mind. Quad Cab's sawed-cho mini-big-ug cargo into pickup truck

Tim Spell writes for the Chronicle Cars & Trucks

Mazda MPV owner learns hydraulic lifters at root of tapping noise

Dear Doctor: I bought a 1995 Mazda MPV minivan in January of '96. In February 1997, the engine developed a tapping noise when started. The dealer flushed the oil system and changed the oil. The following month, the dealer replaced the oil pump, hydraulic lifters, rocker arms and shafts. This did quiet down the tapping considerably, until May of 1999. Now with cold weather, the tapping lasts 15 minutes and is louder than before. I have always changed the oil at 3,000 mile intervals. The van has just turned 60,000 miles. I like my MPV and do not want to get rid of it. Please advise. Shelly

Dear Shelly: I have heard the tapping noise on many Mazda MPV vans. The noise is from either the hydraulic lifters not getting enough oil pressure, or the small bore cylinder they sit in is too large, allowing the oil to slip by the lifter instead of filling it. Go back to the dealer with all the paperwork on the past attempts for repair. If you do not get any satisfaction, there are many great minivans on the market today. My last road test of the Ford Windstar was more car-like than any other van I can remember.

Check engine crank speed

Dear Doctor: I own a 1984 Ford F-150 pickup with the 5.0-liter V8. I had the engine replaced two years ago and it runs fine. When I first start the engine, I have to keep pump-

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato

ing the gas pedal for a minute or so. After I shut the engine off, it will not crank over. I have tried another battery and even hooked up a battery jumper. Sometimes spraying starting fluid into the carburetor helps to get it started. Often, after 24 hours it starts up, but with difficulty. Again once the engine is running, it seems to run fine. What do you think? William

Dear William: The first step is to make sure the engine cranking speed is set at factory specifications. Voltage drop at the starter motor is critical upon engagement. Something as minor as a bad ground cable could cause a hard engine crank. Next, is to run a voltage test out of the coil and then out of the distributor cap. In some cases, I have seen the wrong distributor cap, and even the wrong distributor installed in some Ford 5.0-liter engines.

Where has the oil gone?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 Oldsmobile Cutlass wagon with 95,000 miles that has started losing power up hills. I went to the dealer and they did a major tune-up which took care of the power loss. It now is using a quart of oil every 500 miles. There is no

sign of smoke out the exhaust and the spark plugs are dry. Where is the oil going? Ray

Dear Ray: We first need to check the PCV system to make sure there is a vacuum at the PCV valve. Next is a compression test. If both compression and PCV systems are good, I would almost bet the problem is either blocked oil returns (if applicable), or worn valve guides or seals. I see a lot of valve guide and seal problems.

Sounding off on a ping

Dear Doctor: I own a 1983 Chevrolet S10 pickup with the 2.8-liter V6 engine, automatic transmission, and 130,000 miles on it. My problem is an engine ping since new, that the dealer has never been able to solve. It will ping upon take off and going up hill. I use premium gasoline and it still pings. The truck gets 22 mpg city and 28 to 30 mpg on the highway. The dealer has replaced the distributor and many emission parts. Can you help? Ron

Dear Ron: Engine ping is the gasoline exploding, not burning evenly. I would suggest someone other than the dealer at this point. Have the shop hook up a vacuum gauge to the EGR valve and go for a road test. The EGR valve must get the vacuum to open, which in turn cools down the combustion chamber. The total vacuum and centrifugal distributor advance, as well as the timing mark on the bal-

ancer. According to your gas mileage, the engine is on the lean side. The color of the spark plug should be eggshell brown.

Torqued over rumbling

Dear Doctor: My 1992 Lincoln Town Car makes a rumbling sound as it shifts into overdrive. At first, I thought I was traveling over rumble strips in the road. It often happens when the engine is warm. I had the transmission fluid and filter changed at 50,000 miles. The car currently has 67,000 miles. What can be done short of a transmission overhaul? Ali

Dear Ali: The problem is the torque converter lockup shutter. This is common in some rear-wheel drive Ford Motor Co. vehicles. I would like you to have the transmission fluid flushed out. Some of the fast oil change shops and transmission shops have the machine to do this. Some transmission fluids

have an anti-shutter additive in the fluid already. Ford also has transmission additives. I use a Lube Guard, that seems to be an additive will actually make more slippery.

Send questions to: Auto Doc, Circle, Lakeville, MA 02454. Copyright 1999

Mirage

FROM PAGE D1

But this doesn't explain the slogan. What would make me wake up and drive? Other than its swift appearance, what makes this car exciting? For one thing, the Mirage offers a high-quality appearance at a reasonable price. The base price of my tester was \$14,607.

With a \$1,030 option for a Sport Package, plus destination charges, the total was \$16,062. The Sport package included the rear spoiler, side air dam, fog lights, chrome tail pipes, white meters, and 14-inch alloy wheels — all giving the Mirage a tantalizing look.

The trunk offers a respectable amount of storage and easy access, plus the ability to lower the rear seat backrest to store something as much as five feet long.

The Mirage also has a means to lock the backrest to prevent anyone from gaining access to valuables stored in the trunk when the car has to be valet parked and a separate valet key is used.

What's interesting is this thoughtful feature is overlooked by other manufacturers even on cars costing much more.

The Mirage is easy to enter and exit if your seat is up front. It even offers the front seat passenger help getting out with a hand grip above the door. For passengers required to sit in the rear, it's another story. Even my little grandson had difficulty making it to the rear, but once his belt was buckled, there wasn't any complaint. This car will seat three across the rear, but there is very little leg room.

On the other hand, the two front seat passengers have plenty of leg and head room. The seats, although mechanical, are easy to adjust to a comfortable position. Visibility from the driver's seat is excellent and all the

controls seemed easy to operate, including to cruise control within fingertip reach while my right hand remained on the steering wheel.

The heating and air conditioning controls are positioned in the choice location in the center of the dash panel. By choice, I mean it is located just above the sound system where it is easy to see and reach. Below it is an AM/FM stereo CD player with four speakers, plus space for an optional single in-dash CD player. And there's a pullout dual cupholder, too.

What's my conclusion? The Mirage is an affordable, sharp-looking sporty car. If you are a sleepy head looking for a fun car, it's time to wake up and drive.

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- Horsepower: 113 at rpm
- Torque: 116 at rpm
- Transmission: 5-speed manual
- Wheelbase: 95 in. 2413 mm
- Overall length: 174.9 in
- Width: 52 in. 1320 mm
- Height: 66 in. 1676 mm
- Track, front/rear: 57 / 57 in.
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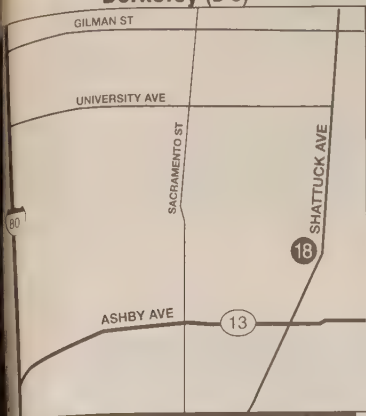
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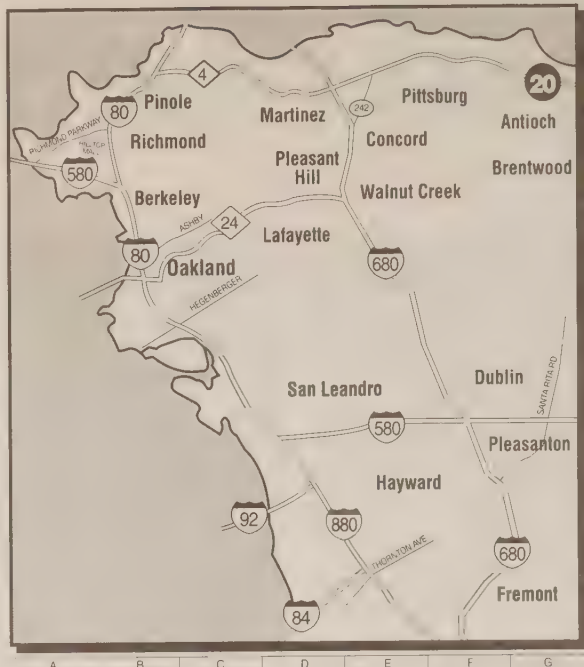
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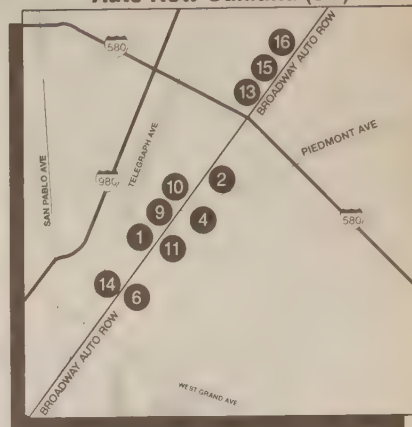
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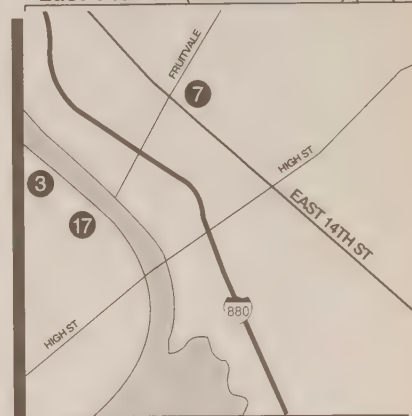
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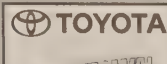
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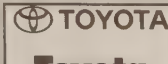
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Model 2123

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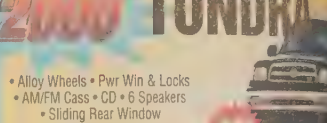


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TUNDRA



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- AM/FM Cass • CD • 6 Speakers
- Sliding Rear Window

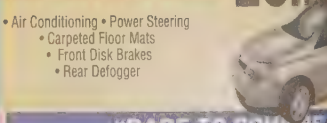
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Tilt Wheel, AM/FM Cass, Dual Air Bags,
Great Commuter 726235/11129A

\$6,995



90 Toyota Tercel

Auto, Power Steering, AM/FM Cass
#051639/10937A

\$4,995

97 Toyota T-100 PU

V-6, 4x4, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, CD Changer,
Sliding Rear Window. Bed liner 048908/10821A

\$8,995

97 Mercury Tracer

Auto, Air Cond, AM/FM Stereo, Dual Air Bags
#018774/15311

\$8,595

99 Suzuki Swift

Auto, AC, AM/FM Cass, Dual Air
Bags 600734/11277A

\$8,995

98 Pontiac Sunfire

Auto, AC, Tilt, Cass, ABS, Dual Air Bags
#821698/#1508P

\$11,695

99 Honda Civic EX

AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Moon Roof
#065400/10311A

\$16,595



98 Ford Contour

Auto, Air, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM Stereo,
Cass, Alloy Wheels #165638/1544P

\$12,595

98 Toyota Corolla LE

Auto, AC, PS, PW, PL, Tilt, Cruise, Cass
Alloys #030014/10744A

\$12,595

99 Mazda Protege DX

Auto, AC, Tilt Wheel, CD, Alloy Wheels,
Dual Air Bags 112682/1562P

\$12,595

96 Toyota Land Cruiser

Auto, 4x4, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Leather,
Moon Roof & Much More #114110/10527A

\$12,995

96 Toyota Camry DX

AC, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel AM/FM Stereo Cass,
Dual Air Bags 412720/N709

\$12,995

95 Nissan Altima GXE

Air, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, AM/FM Stereo
Cassette Disc, Dual Air Bags, Alloy Whls
#150625/1548P

\$8,995



96 Toyota Camry LE

AC, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control,
CD Changer/Cass 921411/N716

\$13,995

97 Isuzu Rodeo

AC, Power Steering, AM/FM Cass,
Dual Air Bags 309049/11123A

\$13,995

94 Dodge Stealth

Auto, AC, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, AM/FM Cass,
CD, Dual Air Bags, Leather, Dual PSeats,
Alloy Wheels, Spoiler. #009800/N679

\$14,595

96 Nissan 240SX CPE

Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Moon Roof,
Alloy Wheels & More #035323/N697

\$14,995

94 Mercury Villager

V-6, Auto, 7 Pass, Dual AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise,
CD, Leather & More #J28922/1552P

\$14,995

98 Ford Windstar

GL, V6, Auto, AC, 7 Pass, PW, PDL,
Tilt, CC, ABS, Roof Rack, Alloy Wheels
#A50944/1468P

\$15,995

95 Nissan Quest

V6, Auto, 7 Pass, Front & Rear A/C, PW, PDL,
Tilt, Cruise, CD, Moon Roof & Much More
#823180/11088A

\$14,995

97 Toyota Avalon XL

V6, Auto, Air, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise Control
AM/FM Stereo Cass
#154323/1553P

\$16,995

96 Chev Impala

V6, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise,
Alloys 177512/107838

\$16,995

99 Mazda Miata Conv.

AC, PW, PDL, CD, Dual Airbags, Alloy Wheels
106263/1563P

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SHOPS AND SERVICES BEYOND THE HILLS
ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

How to deliver a knockout punch

By Renee Schettler
THE WASHINGTON POST

Newcomers to punch making need to remember that improvisation is encouraged. Here's what you need to know to turn out a perfect punch.

- Always buy extra ingredients. It's not pretty when the punch runs out. If there are leftovers, there will always be an occasion to make punch.
- Moderately priced wines and liqueurs are worth the money spent. Most punches are straightforward when it comes to flavors, so it pays to use quality ingredients.
- Cold punch can be served in a metal, glass or crystal punch bowl. Hot punch should be served in a metal bowl — never glass because they might crack or melt when kept simmering on the front burner for informal occasions. If possible, serve punch in a mug. When pouring hot punch into a glass cup, place a metal spoon in the cup before pouring.
- Punch bowls and cups are nice but not necessary. Improvise by using a pitcher or even a ceramic mixing bowl. Wine glasses, flutes and plastic cups can also fit the bill. Or call a party rental company and hire about crystal, glass and/or silver punch bowls and glasses.
- For cold punches, chill the individual ingredients and the punch bowl separately prior to mixing. If the bowl is too large for the refrigerator, fill it with crushed ice for 15 minutes, then empty and add the punch.
- Make or buy plenty of ice — ice cubes, blocks or rings for the punch and crushed ice for chilling the mixers and glasses. Many people prefer ice rings or cubes, which will melt faster and

tend to get scooped up and poured into the glasses, where they may overly dilute the punch.

- To minimize the weakening of the punch as the ice melts, make frozen cubes from additional nonalcoholic ingredients or similarly flavored juices instead of water.

- For festive ice, plop a cranberry, cherry, twist of orange or lemon peel, mint leaf or edible flower in the ice cube trays or ring mold prior to filling it with liquid. Some bottled waters will produce crystal clear cubes.

- Bring mirth to your punch bowl with creative ice. "Christmastime Treats" author Sara Perry (Chronicle, \$14.95) suggests the following: rinse a small surgical glove (available at pharmacies), fill with a nonalcoholic component of the punch, tie the cuff of the glove and freeze. At serving time, trim the knot, peel and discard the glove; float the chilly hand in the punch bowl.

- Most chilled punches taste far better if mixed at the last minute. Add carbonated ingredients just before serving.

- When measuring wines and spirits, keep in mind that 1 ounce equals 2 tablespoons, 2 ounces equals 1/4 cup and 8 ounces equals 1 cup.

- When you need to adjust for sweetness, remember that granulated sugar does not dissolve easily in cold liquids, but sugar syrup solves the problem.

- If a recipe calls for strongly brewed tea, use additional tea rather than a longer steeping time; the latter makes tea bitter.

- For chilled eggnog that doesn't become diluted as guests slowly sip away,



NEW YORK TIMES

Please see PUNCH, Page 2

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, caterers around New York say they have seen something of a punch revival.

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PUNCH

FROM PAGE 1

float pints of frozen ice cream instead of ice.
Use only high-fat ice cream; low-fat versions will give your nog a runny consistency.

Remember to serve plenty of nonalcoholic options.

Mulled Wine

(About 16 four-ounce servings)

With its bright color, fragrant aroma and bold flavor, this version of mulled wine is a sure party favorite.

Adapted from a recipe in "Christmas 101" by Rick Rodgers (Broadway, \$15).

Use a fruity but full-bodied red

wine, such as Merlot or Zinfandel; don't go too cheap since this punch is only as good as the wine that you use.

2 (750-milliliter) bottles fruity red wine, such as Merlot
1 cup honey
2/3 cup Grand Marnier or

other orange-flavored liqueur

Zest and juice from 1 orange, plus additional orange slices (for optional garnish)

12 whole cloves
12 allspice berries
2 cinnamon sticks, 3 to 4 inches, plus additional for op-

tional garnish

4 quarter-size slices fresh ginger root, crushed
3 cardamom pods, crushed (optional)

In a large nonreactive pot over low heat, stir together the wine, honey, Grand Marnier, orange

zest and juice, cloves, allspice, cinnamon, ginger and cardamom, if using.

Heat, stirring occasionally, until the mulled wine is hot but not boiling, about 30 minutes.

Strain and discard the solids. Pour into mugs and garnish

with orange slices or sticks, if desired.

Serve warm.

Per serving: 172 calories

protein, 23 gm carbohydrates, 10 gm trace fat, 0 mg cholesterol

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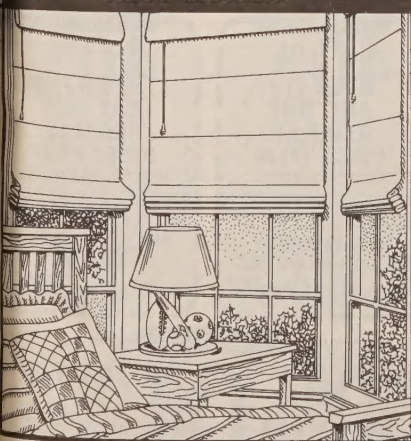
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A Multiple Sclerosis expert will discuss advances in MS therapy and cure. Real hope exists for people with MS. Whether you are newly diagnosed, or more progressive, there are things which may be of help.

Come hear the latest treatment issues as well as practical advice.

Dr. Joseph Lacy MD, of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Stanford University, will discuss therapies, lifestyles, and research advances in MS.

Bring your questions, as he will address them after the talk.

Whether you are newly diagnosed, experienced in living with MS, or a family member/friend, you can't afford to miss this informational and special evening.

**MS NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY**

Monday
January 17, 2000
7:00pm

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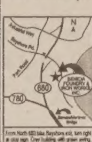
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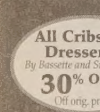
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